DARLINGTON REVIEW

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Material for each edition of the Review must be submitted before 5pm on the 20th of the preceding month. Please keep Letter to the Review brief and include your name, address and phone number. Contact details will not be printed and you can request that a pseudonym rather than your name be used. Letters must be emailed to: editorial@darlingtonreview.com.au or placed in the Review box in the Post Office by the deadline date of the 20th of the month.

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EDITORIAL

Happy Autumn!

As Darlington breathes new life with each changing season so do many of its homes, with owners helping to revive our aging suburb whilst keeping with its unique historic and cultural heritage. In the past few years, we've seen people from all walks of life flock to our little gem of a village, as it has become a more and more desirable place in which to live. The prospect of purchasing a one-of-a-kind home on spacious land surrounded by nature and breathtaking views, and with that small town charm, has sparked the curiosity of many Perthians. It has also become a tough market to break into, with only a few houses showing at any time and many of them in desperate need of some modern upgrades and TLC.

Turning A House Into A Home

Renovators need tough stomachs and an even tougher wallet if they're going to survive in this market and have the time, effort, and resources readily available to give their home the love it needs. As the costs and wait time for tradespeople and contractors soar, many people are turning to DIY projects and cost-cutting methods to get the ball rolling. Restoring and renovating homes has become a big trend in recent years, both as a way to save older buildings from demolition and the opportunity to move into the housing market at a lower cost with the potential for higher gain. Some renovators flip the homes hoping to turn a profit and others do it for their own enjoyment and living satisfaction. Even more, some tech savvy people showcase their hard work on social media platforms by giving others fresh ideas and easy access to DIY skills. This edition hopes to showcase some of the many local buildings that have undergone a transformation and inspire you with firsthand knowledge from our local community.

My Own Diamond in the Rough

My family and I have lived in Darlington for just over 18 months now, we had always loved the idea of living in the hills and had spent years driving around ogling over the distinctive properties for sale and the stunning views. When we came across our forty-year-old fixer upper we knew we were in for a tough ride, yet we took exactly one look at this ageing beauty on a quiet Easter weekend and knew we had to have her. Something about the house and the tranquil setting of 360-degree bushland views perched on a hill made us feel instantly at home. Somehow, two young thirty-somethings with absolutely zero renovation experience having only ever lived in new builds, felt they could take on the construction industry and upskill themselves to completely transform a neglected older home.

Once the moving dust had settled, I set to work looking for straightforward things to upgrade or renovate without breaking the bank. Most of the bedrooms only needed a fresh coat and basic fixture upgrades, it can be so simple and affordable to turn a drab outdated room into something more modern and pleasing. Personally, I find painting to be quite soothing and therapeutic and once the buttery walls were gone, I replaced all the minor fixtures in the rooms including fans and light fittings, door handles and wardrobe rails, and curtains, finials, and rods. The only thing left to upgrade in these rooms is new flooring which we hope to complete at the same time as the adjacent hallway and kitchen areas. Overall, each bedroom upgrade cost between $400-600 and allowed me to gain more experience doing straightforward DIY jobs.

After the three main bedrooms were complete, I tore out the old master walk-in-robe, which consisted of a basic shelf and rail and replaced it with a flatpack wardrobe. I timed my purchase right and took advantage of a 20% off sale to reduce costs. Adding a built-in-wardrobe can undoubtedly improve space and reduce clutter in the bedroom. I also updated the lounge room, which luckily only needed a basic paint however unluckily has elevated walls that lead to heaven. I decided to use this room as a trial for window frame spray painting which involved a lot of prepping work and can get messy so be sure to completely cover and mask up! Whilst this is a cost-effective way to turn those outdated frames into something more contemporary, we are hoping to eventually replace all the windows and doors to enhance energy efficiency, increase security, and modernise our home. We have been quoted almost 50k for a total home replacement, however as our external walls consist of 60% glass and doors, this eyewatering amount might not be that extreme.

Before and after of Marie and Michael's walk-in-wardrobe renovations

Meanwhile, my multi-talented father-in-law and husband Michael started on the more complex task of renovating the bathrooms which are as old as the house itself. Both bathrooms were not only aging but were also becoming a safety hazard due to lack of waterproofing throughout, leading to a mould build up on walls, tiles, floors, and even beams. Thus, both bathrooms needed to be completely gutted and replaced. The first bathroom took a few weeks to complete, however due to work and scheduling, the second bathroom has taken much longer and stalled for around four months after being completely cleared. A rooky mistake and regret of ours is not ensuring that we were completely ready to renovate prior to demolishing the room, fortunately, my construction crew has found some time in this sweltering heat to make a start. Overall, we have managed to keep the costs low and have possibly spent half of the going rate.

Before and after of Marie and Michael's bathroom renovations

We are still new at this and have many more renovations planned over the next few years. The laundry and kitchen are next and both suffer from a severe lack of storage and underutilised space. By altering the window and door openings, and replacing the cupboards and flooring, these rooms will be completely transformed into more liveable spaces. Another constant and evolving project has been the upgrades and maintenance of our garden. Many people are caught off guard when they move to the hills and suddenly realise the enormous upkeep that comes with owning larger properties. This is something we have found out the hard way and whilst it is enjoyable it's also incredibly time consuming, however, we plan to make small improvements with each changing season.

Overall, we have loved renovating, in particular the satisfaction that comes with enjoying the project after it's completed and knowing we did most of it ourselves. My favourite part has been seeing how the subtle changes to each room can completely transform a space, as well as finding a love of designing a space that suits our personality and lifestyle. So far, I have no regrets, but I would certainly recommend living in the space for a while before making any drastic changes.

1970's Architectural Dream

Kylie was lucky enough to grow up in Darlington back in the 70's through to the 90's. She and her husband Norm moved back here with their young family in 2010 so that their children could experience growing up in the picturesque surroundings of the Perth Hills and on a quiet street perfect for rolling their homemade buggies down. Their property was located at the end of a cul-de-sac, with a creek next door, bush reserve behind and within walking distance to a choice of schools. They are surrounded by mature trees, views of the valley and they're lucky enough to have only one great neighbour.

When they purchased their house it was in poor condition, and they thought about bulldozing it and starting over. However after living in it for a while, they warmed to its layout and realized that renovating would be cheaper than building. Having previously renovated two properties mostly by themselves, they knew they would (mostly) work well together again, with Kylie using her creative skills and her background as a landscape designer, whilst Norm utilised his practical skills and background as a carpenter. They started by remodelling the main living area and kitchen as they thought this would have the biggest impact on their day-to-day living. They added lots of large windows to lighten up the space and take advantage of the views over the valley.

As time has gone by, they have begun to outsource more, particularly with specialist trades like painting, plastering, and tiling. Sadly, Norm suffered a brain injury from an ice-skating accident halfway through their renovations which put their projects on hold for a while, but they have recently found some great contractors to help finish the larger projects, and so on it goes! Their initial renovation was quite intense with two young children at home. It was highly ambitious and reeked of fresh energy, with the aim of re-aligning the living spaces so they could take advantage of the Northern views over the valley, and warm sunlight in winter. They put in floor to ceiling windows, replaced pine cladding and 70's green laminate with fresh white ceilings and a new modern kitchen. They really wanted to maintain a link to its 70's origin and have re-introduced some earthy timber and stone features to give it that 70's architectural feel. Kylie's highlight is a beautiful natural stone feature wall in the kitchen and moody grey cupboards. Whilst not on trend for Perth at the time and challenging to source, she really wanted to create something a little different, homely, and timeless, which they still love.

A few years later they turned their focus to the landscaping, refurbishing their old rotting deck and adding a beautiful pool overlooking the valley. These renovations have been transformational to their lifestyle, and they feel grateful every day for where they live and what they have achieved together. Some of the hardest things for Kylie and Norm have been finding the right high-quality tradespeople who listen to what they want, take ownership over their work, and spend time getting things right. Whilst they worked hard to guard quality family time on the weekends and keep their relationship harmonious, there were so many pieces to pull together from

Kylie and Norm's renovated pool

fiercely debating room layouts to changing needs over time. They have mostly disliked sacrificing holidays and travelling and suggest renovating only to your budget. That being said, they recommend renovating early so that you can enjoy it for longer but to avoid cutting corners on quality. Kylie says it's important to plan time to discuss ideas and invest in a long-term high quality master plan that works for your lifestyle. Seeking advice from a building designer or architect will allow the project to take a fresh set of eyes and see a different way of doing things to help you save money and avoid mistakes in the long run.

Up until 2023 they didn't have a laundry and hadn't renovated their bathrooms; however, they were able to fast track them through the help of professional renovators. Kylie wishes they had outsourced more from the beginning so that they could spend more time with their young children, run their busy business and avoid putting unnecessary stress on their relationship. Renovating has become a huge part of their 20 years together and they often must remind each other to find time to socialise, relax and spend time enjoying their accomplishments. Overall, they have found tremendous pride and joy in having friends visit and showing them their most recent renovations. They have created a home which has been intertwined with their personality and lifestyle and every day feels like living in their ideal holiday resort (when they're not renovating)! Over a decade since they first began, Kylie and Norm are now embarking on what they believe will likely be their final stage in the master bedroom and ensuite.

Kylie runs her landscape design business from home in a beautiful, converted studio office space. She is passionate about creating beautiful spaces for others as she can appreciate how life changing a well-designed space can be.

Before and after of Kylie and Norm's bathroom

Kylie and Norm's landscaped gardens and side of house

The Crossleigh Charmer

Mel and her family have been renovating and living in their home in Darlington for more than four years. Originally from the UK, Mel fell in love with the rare village feel of Darlington as it reminds her of home and they both feel at ease driving up the beautiful hill each day, leaving the busy city behind them. Mel and John saw tremendous potential in their beautiful old home and its unique character, with high ceilings and fancy cornices. Unfortunately, like many of Darlington's older homes they knew it needed a full overhaul, but the worst was yet to come as the deeper they dug the more problems they found. They discovered there wasn't a straight wall in sight and white ants had done their worst on the property, which undoubtedly added to the time and effort of the project as they have essentially had to pull the house apart and put it back together again.

Mel grew up around property renovating and its influence has clearly rubbed off on her, from her love of renovations to her career as an electrician. Despite having renovated two houses together, their previous simple brick and tile properties were child's play in comparison to the project Mel and John have taken on here. They first focused on making a small liveable area complete with a kitchen and bathroom, imagine a 'tiny house' whilst they set to work on the rest of the rooms. Mel and John left no stone unturned as they replaced all the windows, pulled down the old plaster ceilings, replaced almost every wall in the house and straightened up the existing jarrah stud frames by using termite treated pine. Unfortunately, that also meant the original trim and skirtings had to be modified and the cornices had to be replaced, however they have tried to match them as close as possible to keep their character alive. They also stripped and left the old brick chimney breast exposed to give it a unique appearance and atmosphere.

From their years of experience, Mel and John recommend buying the good tools first to avoid spending more in the long run. They recommend always having a basic plan in place but allowing for it to be flexible as your lifestyle changes. Consider buying in bulk where possible and tackling a few rooms at a time to utilise the timing of your electrician, plumber, plasterer etc. In order to avoid straightening every wall and ceiling in the house they first chose to repair the jarrah stud frames, however in hindsight they would recommend using treated pine instead to fix the issue. Lastly, they recommend choosing to save and reinstall the things that are important to you.

Mel and John have done a lot of the labour-intensive work themselves, with John learning many new skills and working tirelessly along the way. They have also used some great local tradies for skilled labour. If they could do things differently it would only be because of the skills and knowledge they have gained from actually doing the project itself, but they're so thankful for the choices they made in particular their decision to keep their beautiful home at 'Crossleigh'. There's still a bit to get done with the roof being the next big job. They'd also like to throw a big thank you out to their neighbours who have tolerated the renovating chaos, noise, tradies, mess (and continue to do so!)

Before and after of Mel and John's bathroom renovations

Overall, running their electrical company and raising their young children has been no easy feat for the couple but they have loved growing their skills and running their own projects, as well as seeing the worthwhile before and after photos. Now that it's all coming together, they can finally reap the fruits of their labour and enjoy the beautiful spaces they have created.

Before and after of Mel and John's pool renovations

The Marri Tree Change

With their children having flown the coup, Kathryn and Tim moved to Darlington in September 2017 ready for their tree change. They first fell in love with the deciduous trees in the beautiful garden, and the expansive light and huge dining space. When they moved in everything was perfectly liveable, but the kitchen was old and rickety, so they decided to renovate it. They had previously renovated two kitchens, but after getting a basic laminate kitchen quote, they knew they couldn't put a dull kitchen into such a quirky house. The Darlington Hub page recommended a local cabinet maker who ensured every aspect was taken care of, right down to shaving the kitchen doors to fit the new flooring. Kathryn and Tim are more than happy for you to contact them if you'd like the information of the companies that helped with their renovations.

They also needed to remove all the old dark slate and chose to replace it with the darkest travertine they could find, however it is something they now regret as it still shows every dog print, mud splatter and drop of food. They didn't enjoy living in their house whilst all the works were happening, and strongly suggest consecutively booking in as many trades as possible to avoid packing and moving things multiple times. As with all Darlington houses nothing is square and everything was complicated, from leveling the floor, to finding electricity and water underground. Kathryn and Tim's whole kitchen space has been completely transformed, they absolutely love the marri appearance and look forward to more renovations (when they win the lotto).

Before and after of Kathryn and Tim's kitchen renovations

What's News!

Welcome to our new Production Manager - The Darlington Review is delighted to announce that Perth Hills' graphic designer Liz Berry has joined the Review team, replacing Antoinette Boyd who has been making our magazine look so professional over the past few years. Antoinette is off adventuring across Australia, but fortunately we won't lose her – she's happy to slip back into the Production chair whenever Liz travels overseas. You'll have a chance to meet Liz and Antoinette at the Review's AGM on March 26 at 7pm at 6A Brook Road, Darlington.

Liz brings together an impressive range of skills; apart from her design work, she's a potter and an artist working in acrylics, water colour, ceramics, and digital design. The UK-born designer has worked in advertising/design for more than three decades, after training in art and fashion in London and working with clients including Apple and Guinness. In 1990 she emigrated to Australia, working with advertising agencies before launching her own business, Kore Design. Her company's design portfolio includes logos, stationary, web design, newsletters, books, media ads and much more. She is also involved in the annual Mundaring Hills Open Studios, exhibiting her ceramics, and producing its attractive brochure.

We wish Liz a warm welcome – and safe travels to Antoinette. You'll find Liz's contact details on the inside front cover.

Production Manager Liz Berry with Antoinette Boyd and Review Manager Gabby Houldsworth

Liz Berry's ceramics at her Glen Forrest studio

Welcome to HOSCA!

The Darlington Review's wonderful list of members has grown by one more as we extend a warm welcome to Hills Outside School Care Assoc Inc or HOSCA as many of you would know them.

Since 2010, HOSCA has served our Darlington community from their current location and is a not-for-profit organisation which offers before and after school care, as well as school development days and vacation care. HOSCA is big on nature, ensuring that the children have regular adventures in their expansive nature play area, come face-to-face with the local wildlife and use produce from their gardens to become mini-chefs for the day.

For more information or bookings, please contact Cathy on 08 9299 8687 / 0417 978 806.

Cathy Neale from HOSCA

On Friday 9th February, the Shire of Mundaring has unveiled its latest community project in the new and improved **Broz Park in Helena Valley**. This shady, safe, and fenced in all-abilities playground boasts a flying fox, pendulum all abilities swing, new fitness hub, additional seating, and bicycle racks.

The Darlington Ratepayers and Residents Association (DRRA) is seeking two new Executive Committee members to join their valuable team. They are in need of a secretary to take Minutes for two meetings a month and keep Members informed, as well as a Publicist to publicise DRRA's activities. If you are interested in one of these positions, please contact Chairperson Louise Stelfox on 0437 310 578 to find out more.

Want to know what's happening at local meetings but can't always get there? Have a read of Meeting Points after the editorial to keep up with local issues.

Upcoming Events

There is certainly a lot happening this month and to get it started, the Shire of Mundaring and Lotterywest are proudly sponsoring a sizzling Summer of Entertainment. Part of this program is Aquafest at the Bilgoman Aquatic Centre on Friday 8th March from 6pm to 8pm. The outdoor pool festival has something for everyone and promises an evening of aquatic fun featuring a live DJ, real-life mermaids, inflatables, and amusement rides, along with a free sausage sizzle.

The **54th Darlington Half Marathon** and **8km Fun Run** will take place on March 17th from 7:00am, registrations are still open and close only 30 minutes prior to the event. Whether you're a seasoned pro or a first-time half marathoner, the race offers a unique and unforgettable experience in an all-inclusive environment. For more information and registration visit www.wamc.org.au.

The **Darlington Arts Festival Association Annual General Meeting** will be held in Lesser Hall on Monday 18th March from 7.30pm. With some exciting new roles to fill, new members are encouraged to attend and join their fun and energetic team!

Come join us! We're hoping members of the Darlington Review will join us at our very speedy (and very social) **AGM** that is happening on Tuesday 26th March at 7pm at 6A Brook Road in Darlington. It's always a nice occasion for long-standing and new member groups to get-together and to meet the Review team, including our new front-of-house Review Manager Gabby Houldsworth whose contact details are on the inside front cover. Gabby handles all queries that don't fall neatly into the editorial, advertising or business areas. As always there will be a glass of bubbles to follow the serious business!

Marie Sherwood | March Editor

My family and I have been fortunate enough to call Darlington home for 18 months now and we have never looked back to our dull life in the suburbs. During the week I help guide and educate the next generation as a primary school teacher at our local Treetops Montessori School. On weekends I get to watch my own two children run around our buzzing backyard and become entwined in the community as they live, play and breathe here.

Marie Sherwood

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

NOTICE is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Darlington Review Inc. is to be held 6A Brook Rd, Darlington at 7:00pm on Tuesday 26 March 2024.

Nominations are invited for four Committee positions – Editorial Manager; Advertising Manager; Business Manager and Review Manager.

The nominator must be a member of Darlington Review Inc. and nominations must be in writing. Nominees must give written consent to their nomination. Please request nomination forms:
business@darlingtonreview.com.au

Betty Pitcher | Business Manager.

AGENDA

1. Welcome and Attendance including Proxies received.
2. Apologies
3. Confirmation of the previous AGM minutes (14th March 2023)
4. Matters arising
5. Editor's report
6. Advertising Manager's report
7. Business Manager's report with Reviewed Accounts for Year to 31 December 2022 and 2023.
8. Appointment of Honorary Auditor
9. Election of 4 Management Committee Members
10. Close

Meeting Points

Reimagining how our community groups work … speed on Darlington roads … the Satterley saga continues to soak up taxpayers' dollars … and the Kookaburra is determined to fly again!

There was lots to talk about – and lots to take home to think about – at the February meeting of the Darlington Ratepayers and Residents Association (DRRA). Top of the list was the future of the Darlington Community Recreation Advisory Group (DCRAG) now that it is no longer a Shire advisory group. However, nudging it for top spot was alarm about speeds being clocked up on roads with 50km limits, putting kids and seniors at risk.

First to DCRAG's future. At the meeting, Chris Arnold, a member of three major community groups, DRRA, DCRAG and the Darlington Sports and Recreation Association (DaSRA) presented one option for the road ahead – a reimagining of how these groups could work together, redefining roles to avoid overlap and confusion, and sharpening communication/consultation with the community and the Shire.

"This is a pivotal moment," said Chris who, along with others at the meeting, would like to see this option – and other ideas – discussed at a future community workshop involving the groups and interested individuals. DRRA's Anthony Spagnolo described Chris's presentation as "an insightful vision of the future roles, operations and relationships of Darlington's major community groups" and requested it be discussed at the Feb 26 DCRAG meeting. Chris's proposal was outlined in the Review's December issue (see www.darlingtonreview.com.au).

DCRAG comprised all the major users of the oval/hall and other rec facilities – from sports clubs to the arts festival and fire brigade – so its delegates will no doubt have their own take on the road ahead. All three groups have made significant contributions to the way Darlington operates – DRRA as an overall advisory group dealing with everything from proposed new developments to infrastructure; DCRAG, in recent years, delivering (with DaSRA) a string of projects (pavilion, skatepark, community garden etc) with more projects underway. DRRA has welcomed the workshop idea, but because the Review will be at the printer when DCRAG's February 26 meeting is held, all we can say is: we'll keep you posted! Also check out DRRA, DCRAG and DaSRA notes in this issue.

North Parkerville downsizes

Meanwhile, the February Mundaring Council meeting adjourned discussion on a new subdivision application in North Parkerville. Initially, the developer had proposed a 640 dwellings townsite on the edge of John Forrest National Park that would share a private waste water system with Satterley's North Stoneville. However, the developer appears to have listened to community concerns and has now reduced its scale to 67 rural/residential zoned lots that better reflect the semi-rural landscape in which the proposal sits.

Appeals to SLOW DOWN!

Speed on local roads is alarming some residents – particularly in areas of convergence like Pine Terrace where there's a lot going on: kids going to footy or cricket, skateboarders and pump track riders gathering, the fire brigade headquarters, residents of The Glen taking an evening stroll, basketballers heading for the hoop, plus parking related to the Hall and The Hive. Following concerns about this and other roads in the heart of Darlington, Councillor Luke Ellery requested that the Shire implement a traffic count during February, and, at the DRRA meeting, Councillor Trish Cook said she would be raising the question of traffic calming measures with the Shire. There is more info on this in DRRA notes plus an invitation from DRRA Chair Louise Stelfox to share your thoughts and get involved.

North Stoneville saga

At the DRRA meeting, there was an update on the North Stoneville township proposed by Satterley Property Group which has now been rejected TWICE by the WA Planning Commission, Mundaring Shire and the Perth Hills Community (remember the public submission numbers: 2456 opposed, 29 in support!) Clearly Satterley (and the Anglican Diocese that owns the land) plan to pursue their controversial proposal and requested more time at the WAPC's February meeting. The length of time this issue has been shunted between the Department of Planning, the WAPC and the State Administrative Tribunal (SAT) has clearly frustrated many, with a SAT tribunal member pointing out: "This matter has been in the system since 2020, and we're now in 2024," he said. "It's been to a number of mediation conferences, all of which require public resources." For public resources read taxpayer dollars – and more dollars will fund the next hearing on March 8.

Yes, it's been a long time in the corridors of power

Former Save Perth Hills chair Paige McNeil and MP Matthew Hughes fronting the media after the WA Planning Commission's first rejection the North Stoneville proposal in 2020.

Kookaburra determined to fly again!

At DRRA, mention was made of the recent storm damage that has temporarily closed what is for many locals a favourite night out. Kookaburra Cinema's Peter Foyster tells us he's been overwhelmed by offers of help from across the Shire and from regulars living in Kalamunda. Everyone wants to see the small cinema get back on its feet and Peter says the response has made him determined that the show must go on! He suggests you keep up with news on repairs and a possible future busy bee (once the site is safe) via Facebook. We wish the Picture Show Man well – as do Mundaring businesses (from pizza makers to liquor stores) that benefit from the little cinema in the forest.

Annual Electors' Meeting

If you or your group have an issue you'd like the Shire to consider, take it to the Shire's Annual Electors' Meeting at the Boya Community Centre on Wednesday March 13 at 6.30pm. To submit a question/motion, check out the info on the Shire's website.

Trea Wiltshire

Darlington Ratepayers and Residents Association (DRRA)

"Preserving the character of Darlington and safeguarding the interests of its ratepayers and residents - Since 1909"

DRRA's February meeting was attended by 20 people, including Shire President, Cr Paige McNeil, and our two South Ward councillors, Cr Trish Cook and Cr Luke Ellery. It was lively!

SAVE *the* DATE

14 March 2024 at 7.30pm | **DRRA** Public Meeting at Darlington Hall. All welcome.

On the agenda, Exploring road safety, in response to community concerns for vehicles speeding along Pine Terrace, Coulston Road, the lower section of Darlington Road and Allestree Road.

Shire President, Cr Paige McNeil updated attendees on the Shire's Strategic Direction survey

- The Shire has issued surveys to ratepayers and residents with the intention to use feedback to formulate the Shire's strategic plan. Such surveys have been conducted by approximately 70 local governments in Western Australia, with responses required by 16 February 2023.
- The new Shire CEO, Jason Whiteaker, was reported as using a survey in his previous role as CEO of the Shire of Northam.
- DRRA member, Ceri Kitely, requested that the Shire dusted off the results of its 2019 survey, with the old survey data, and the results of ensuing community workshops, being carried forward into the new survey.
- There are plans for community workshops later this year, building on the results of the 2024 survey.

Exploring future directions for community representation in Darlington

- DRRA Committee member, Chris Arnold, delivered an excellent PowerPoint presentation, arguing the need to review Darlington's community representative groups, by exploring options to ensure that collective actions are more integrated and complimentary.
- Following the Shire removing its involvement in Darlington Community Recreation Advisory Group (DCRAG) in late 2023, Chris stressed that now is an important and opportune moment for the three key groups, DRRA, DCRAG and Darlington's Sports and Recreation Association (DaSRA), to review their roles, responsibilities and inter-relationships, and to ensure a single line of communication with the Shire.
- Attendees agreed that DCRAG had been invaluable in connecting groups operating in Darlington's recreation precinct, and that the proposed reviews should ensure that this functionality continues. DCRAG was recognised as successfully delivering the Lower Area Master Plan (LAMP), including the skatepark, pump track, Darlington Community Garden and Wetlands Rehabilitation Action Plan (WRAP).
- DaSRA was recognised as successfully delivering the Darlington Pavilion, and being incorporated, Chris emphasised DaSRA's importance in leading (auspicing) community projects, e.g., the Noise Bin. A Member argued that DCRAG's current protocols, whereby 16 - 19 member groups meet quarterly, with a voting quorum of 4, aren't in the best interests of the community.

Is it too fast?

- A quick search of the word 'speed' or 'fast' on the Darlington Hub Facebook page yields several posts per year relating to concerns for vehicle speed in the village, be they the safety of residents exiting properties, putting out bins, children walking to school, mums pushing prams and wildlife being killed on our roads.
- Following concerns by residents of The Glen, and Cr Luke Ellery's request, the Shire implemented a traffic count and speed survey along Pine Terrace (week commencing 5 February 2024).
- Cr Trish Cook advised that DRRA may raise a petition to the Shire for road speed calming measures to be enacted where requested and supported by the community.
- DRRA is actively connecting concerned parties on Coulston Road (between Sandover Road and Darlington Road), in the lower section of Darlington Road, along Pine Terrace, and on Allestree Road, with a view to workshopping solutions to traffic speed, which meet the needs of local residents. If you'd like to be involved in one of these four road groups, please text Louise on 0437 310 578.

How you can get involved

The DRRA Committee wants to hear from you.

Meetings are fun and lively. On the second Thursday of every month, Darlington Hall 7:30-9pm.

Email: your concerns and issues to DRRA: drra@darlingtonvillage.org to add them to the next meeting's agenda.

Membership ($15 per household, per annum):

- gives you meeting notices, Minutes of meetings and up-to-date information in your inbox
- allows you to vote on decisions which affect the community
- Payment by cash or EFT: DRRA, BSB 633000 Account 129416640. Reference your 'surname' and email drra@darlingtonvillage.org to join our email mailing list.

NEEDED: Two new Executive Committee members

Secretary: to take Minutes for two meetings a month and keep Members informed

Publicist: to publicise DRRA's activities.

Please text Louise on 0437 310 578 to find out more.

Acknowledgement of service

On behalf of the Committee and community, special thanks to Anthony Spagnolo (Abigail and children), for Anthony's role volunteering as DRRA's Chair in 2023 and Secretary for part of 2024. We've valued your contribution and wish you all the best as you embark on an exciting new career.

Louise Stelfox | DRRA Chair
drra@darlingtonvillage.org

Darlington Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade

REMEMBER

000 is the **ONLY** number to ring for all fire and smoke sightings.

- **The** ComCen **will page our members who are on duty.**
- **For general Brigade enquiries please ring** 9299 7217. Station hours: **Saturday 9am-10:30am.**
  Web: **darlingtonfire.org.au** • Facebook: **Darlington Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade** • Instagram: **dvbfb_**
- Next meeting: Tuesday, March 12, 2024 at the Darlington Fire Station.

Whilst there have only been a small number of fires in the Darlington area this fire season, other communities in the metropolitan area, and around the State, haven't been so lucky. Many fires have been started by animals coming in to contact with powerlines, or trees and branches falling on to powerlines in strong winds. Unfortunately there is no way to predict when and where a fire will start, so preparedness and vigilance is the key. So what can you as individuals do?

PREPARE YOUR HOME
FOR BUSHFIRES
Cut back branches that are near your home.
Install a metal screen on evaporative air conditioners and use metal fly screens on windows.
Plug and repair gaps or damage in walls and roofs.
Clean gutters and box in eaves.
Keep lawn short and green, remove flammable material from around the house.
For more information visit dfes.wa.gov.au

- Create a bushfire plan! Got 15 minutes to burn? Head to mybushfireplan.wa.gov.au
- Consider joining, or starting a Bushfire Ready Group in your street.
- Prepare your own property by maintaining fire breaks, trimming trees (including removing branches up to 2 metres above ground), removing built up leaf litter, creating a 20m protection zone around buildings, and cleaning out gutters.
- Encourage your neighbours to do the same things.
- Immediately report any sightings of smoke or fire to 000.
- Note and report any suspicious activity to Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000.

Please remember that discarding cigarette butts is not only an offence, it has the potential to start fires that could cause damage, loss of property and loss of life. You can help minimise the likelihood of fires by disposing of cigarette butts responsibly and encouraging others do the same. Ensure your butt is fully extinguished before disposing of it and never throw a cigarette butt from a moving vehicle. Throwing away a cigarette butt can also attract a very costly fine. Careless disposal of cigarette butts contravenes the Litter Act, the Road Traffic Code, and the Bushfire Act (penalty: $200). In particular, during a Total Fire Ban, any person who disposes of burning tobacco, or a burning cigarette, cigar or match in circumstances that is likely to set fire to the bush; including by throwing it from a vehicle, could face a fine of $25,000 and/or 12 months in jail. If you see someone carelessly dispose of a cigarette you can report it to Keep Australia Beautiful WA.

If any members of the community notice that fire breaks and emergency access tracks through bush areas are being blocked with unauthorised objects such as boulders, tree stumps and the like, please take the following in to account. Whilst we appreciate that reckless 4wd and trail bike use damages the environment and causes a nuisance, those tracks also provide vital access for emergency services. Unauthorised blocking of tracks could prevent timely access during an emergency to protect life and/or property, or cause injury to emergency personnel trying to clear the obstruction. If you have concerns about unauthorised track usage or blocking of tracks, please contact the Shire of Mundaring or the Parks and Wildlife Service to discuss management options.

Most people now regularly use social media to get information about incident warnings and active fires, and most Volunteer Bush Fire Brigades, Darlington included, have public Facebook pages or groups for local and community information. But be aware that during a fire these pages may not be updated as the volunteers are attending the incident. There are also a number of community Facebook groups, such as 'Perth Hills Fire Chat' and 'EASE WA'. Whilst social media sites can provide quick updates and eye witness information, please be mindful that they are not always accurate and some of the information can be conflicting, misleading or completely false. We strongly encourage community members to use the www.emergency.wa.gov.au website for official information on alerts and warnings, Fire Danger Ratings and Total Fire Bans, weather alerts, and outages and closures. You can also register for the Shire of Mundaring's FREE SMS service advising of; Fire Danger Ratings on days of High or above, Total Fire Bans, Harvest and Vehicle Movement Bans, cancellation of burning permits, and other fire information.

"What you call a hero, I call just doing my job." ~ Author Unknown

Ricky Harvey

HOW FIREPROOF IS YOUR PLAN?
Leave early
Stay and defend
Help me decide
Download My Bushfire Plan App
Access your bushfire plan anytime - even without an internet connection.
Download on the App Store
GET IT ON Google Play

Darlington Bushfire Ready Group

The numerous fires around our area are again a reminder for us, as we also live in a location with bush all around us, many for their second time within 12 months. Hopefully we are better prepared if a fire starts locally, but as we all know, with the right conditions of very low humidity; strong winds and a 'spark' who knows what might happen, and we live in a very high Bushfire risk environment.

Most fires around the locality, have been started by arsonists, so please be aware if seeing a fire start……..ring 000 and report it……then see if anyone is around that location and note as many details as you can, for reporting to the Police or DFES.

Thankfully none of those fires have been around the Darlington area and we need to keep our vigilance to our properties, maintaining them in as low as fuel conditions as we can. This will help reduce the ember impact if that fire does come upon us and make saving your home easier.

During a bushfire emergency services will provide you as much information as possible through a number of different methods: dfes.wa.gov.au/emergency.wa.gov.au; phone DFES 13 33 37and stay tuned to 720 ABC radio. These three warnings are…

ADVICE	A fire has started but there is no immediate threat to lives or homes. Be aware and keep up to date.
WATCH AND ACT	There is a possible threat to lives and homes. You need to leave or get ready to defend – **DO NOT WAIT AND SEE.**
EMERGENCY WARNING	There is a threat to lives and homes. You are in danger and need to take immediate action to survive.

Stay alert to what is happening around you, and put your Bushfire Plan in place. If needing any information on what to do around your home, come down to the Fire Station on a Saturday morning between 9.00am and 10.00am.

Darlington Retirement Accommodation Association (Inc)

Darlington Retirement Accommodation Association (Inc)

We were happy to welcome the Wooroloo prisoner working party back a short while ago resuming their monthly visits and keeping the Glen gardens in great condition. Consequently we sent a letter to Wooroloo Prison acknowledging the excellent work the prisoners do. We would also like to thank Russell and Carol Lagdon, local community volunteers from Darlington, who have taken on the task of taking the garden trailer to the tip for us whenever the need arises.

All the maintenance issues during the year have been successfully attended to including tree lopping by MilnersTree Service on the advice of a notice from Western Power. Also we will be adjusting the reticulation system ready for the summer months. A minor issue occurred where a Woolworths food delivery driver managed to hit the premises and caused some damage to the roof whilst backing his vehicle. This is currently being remedied through contact with the delivery company. Some of the grassed areas are looking a little sad so the residents and committee will look at the problem during this extremely hot period and try to arrive at a suitable solution.

One issue that was raised by the residents was the speed of cars driving on Pine Terrace and past the Glen causing some concern for the residents. The committee has raised this issue with the Darlington Ratepayers Association which will discuss it at the next meeting and will follow up with the Shire. With appropriate discussion with Mundaring Shire representatives we are confident that a solution satisfactory to all stakeholders will be achieved.

Colin Merritt

Darlington Glen Management Committee
Lindsay Earnshaw (President), Carolyn Earnshaw (Secretary)
Betty Pitcher (Treasurer), Colin Merritt (Committee Member) Helena Hercik,(Committee Member)
Leueen Lewis-Jones (Resident's Representative)

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(See inside cover for details)

In early February, the brave men and women of the Darlington DSCC took on the mighty team from Byfields Business Advisory and Taxation Services. The DSCC team felt pretty confident against a group of bean counters, but it turned out they were in for a bit of a surprise.

Byfields 11 won the toss and elected to bat, and it wasn't long before we discovered they had some real cricketing talent amongst their accountants, as their opening pair Sam and Ryan cruised to an opening partnership of 86 before valiant John Taylor finally created a chance with his excellent bowling, and Chris Arnold did the rest with the gloves.

Some mid-innings entertainment occurred when DSCC's bowler Carrie Parsons, fresh off her first wicket for the club, dished up a fine ball that should have been her second wicket but for the inept fumblings of the wicket keeper. Who also happened to be her husband. Poor Matt. We believe he's finally getting comfortable on the couch.

The men and women of Byfields put on a comfortable total of 222 for their 40 overs, and then play stopped for a lovely afternoon tea hosted by Andrew Grivas. Fortified by cordial, sandwiches and relaxed conversation, the players returned to the field for the afternoon session. Sam from Byfields looked as handy with the ball as he was with the bat, and Steve Durkin and Ben Devine watched with concern as the balls zipped past their noses at a decent clip – much faster than the ponderous pitching our stalwarts are used to!

The two fellows ground out a good stand of 50 runs before Steve was brilliantly caught at deep square for 36 by Brad from the Byfields 11. From there DSCC steadily piled on the runs and completed the victory in the 37th over. There were some notable performances from our team with the bat including Ben Devine who unselfishly retired not out on 44 to give other players a chance to bat, and Wendy Kozak and Hannah Williams who stepped up to play.

After the game, both teams and supporters enjoyed a well-earned beverage from the bar as they relived the game, and Guy Thompson put on a fabulous dinner of make-your-own burgers. It's truly a gift to be able to take your family down to the cool green oval at the end of a summer's weekend to have an easy dinner with great people.

If you like the idea of playing some social cricket with friendly people from your neighbourhood, come and check us out. Contact Cam on the details below, and he'll tell you all about it.

Councillor's Column South Ward | Cr Luke Ellery | Shire of Mundaring

I'm hoping this month brings an end to the relentless heat that at best, got me out a few jobs lists and at worst incinerated half a garden that claimed to be 'drought resistant'. In times of severe extreme fire risks, residents may find the Shire tips closed due to harvest vehicle movement bans. Finding the tip closed when you have a full trailer is frustrating. I can provide the following lessons (from experience):

- Call the Shire (9290 6644) or check the Shire facebook page before leaving. Alternatively the Shire has SMS notification you can subscribe to on their website.
- Explore recycling alternatives: Harvey Norman in Midland will accept e-waste and polystyrene. There are CFC (10c bottles/cans) bins at the liquor store carpark or green net bags attached to bins.

Council will consider the option of giving residents free access to Red Hill Waste Facility on days when our Shire's facilities are closed during our next budget.

The state government recently announced that granny flats would no longer require planning approval. While the legislation is commendable, the new provisions are effectively trumped by the bushfire risk management requirements and/or vegetation clearing requirements which would often trigger planning approval and building permit. Please do call the shire and seek advice before you upgrade the children's playhouse to a 2 by 1.

Numerous traffic issues such as speeding, lack of pedestrian protection and blind corners have been reported. Issues of speeding should be reported to police at www.police.wa.gov.au/your-safety/antisocial-behaviour/reporting-hoon-behaviour. Traffic issues such as congestion, road safety or similar issues caused by road design, should be reported through the 'report it' function on the Shire website (see below) or via an email to records@mundaring.wa.gov.au. The Infrastructure Team will assess reports and determine any specific action required. The follow up action may involve obtaining traffic data via traffic survey data collection machines and a review of reported crash history data.

Donna Faragher JP MLC | Member for East Metropolitan Region

In November last year, the Legislative Council's Select Committee into Child Development Services tabled its first major report, *"Child Development Services in Western Australia: Valuing our Children and their Needs".*

This bi-partisan parliamentary committee was established in 2022 following a successful motion I moved in the Legislative Council in response to the unacceptably long wait times children and their families are experiencing to access these vital services. These include speech pathology, occupational therapy, clinical psychology, and paediatric services.

The report backs up what I, along with thousands of parents, medical specialists, teachers, and others have been saying for a very long time.

First, there is a clear need for an immediate and substantial increase in funding to improve access to these vital government services for our children.

Secondly, that funding has not kept pace with service demand and that without additional funding, significant reductions in waiting times are unlikely, meaning many children will continue to fall through the cracks.

The fact is there has been no major funding increase since the $49.7 million uplift in 2010-11 provided over four years under the Barnett Government.

In 2023-24, the funding increase to the metropolitan Child Development Service was estimated to be only an extra $300,000, from $35.7 million to 'approximately $36 million'.

In its first of two Select Committee reports into this issue, clear findings, and recommendations about what can be done now to reduce unacceptable waiting times and expand service provision were made.

The report stated that *"based on the findings in this report and the evidence received, all Members are of the opinion that if the State Government provides the funding increase required, it can be confident that waiting times will reduce and the provision of CDS can be expanded."*

The State Government's response to the Committee's report has now been tabled in State Parliament. While the one-page response 'acknowledges' the Committee's recommendations around the allocation of resources, no funding commitment was made. Instead, the Health Minister said this:

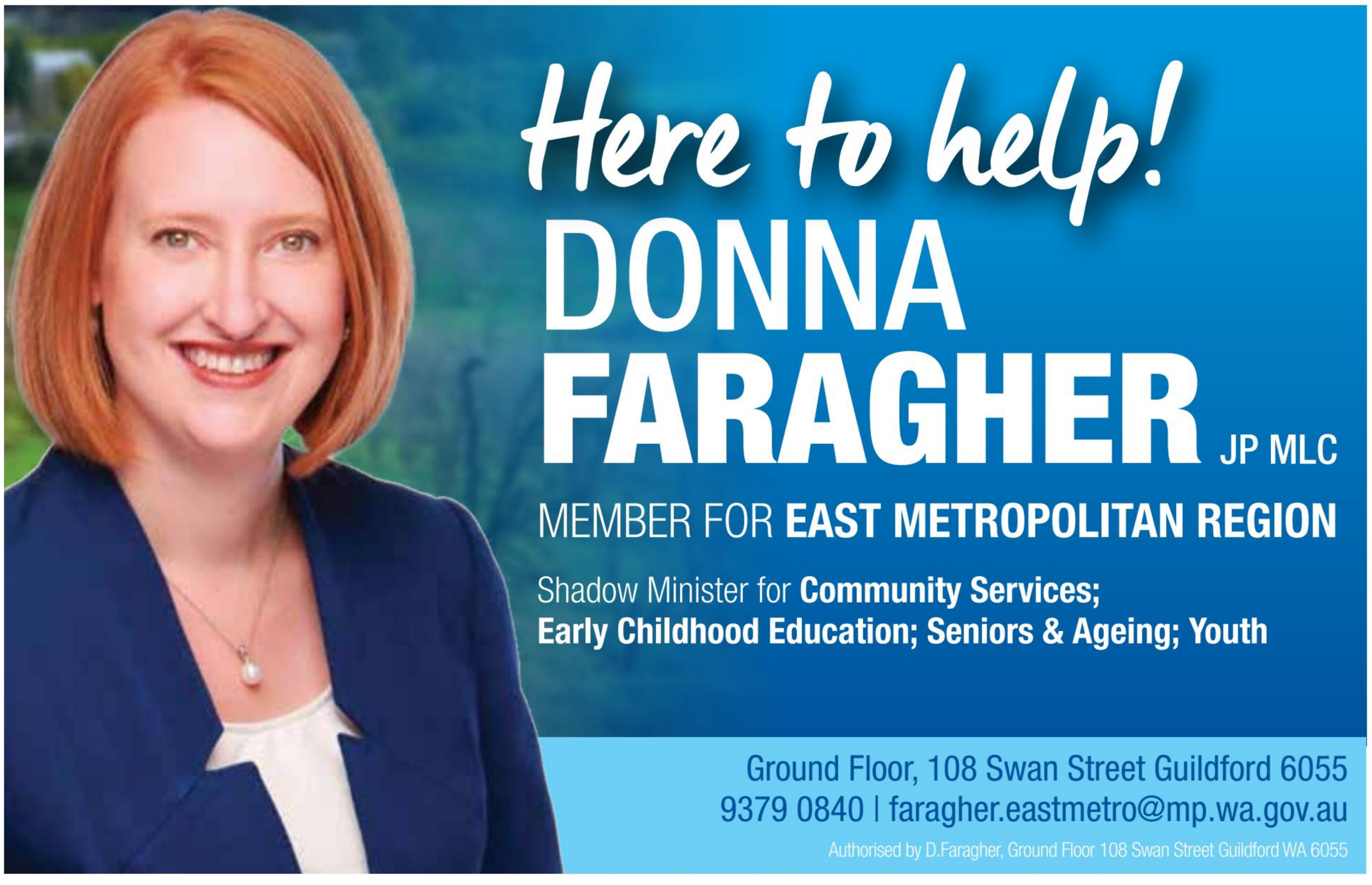
"A comprehensive response to these recommendations will be furnished upon the tabling of the Committee's final report."

With its massive budget surplus, the State Government does have the ability to immediately increase funding into this vital service and this response is an unnecessary delay.

Early diagnosis and intervention undoubtedly improves a child's health, learning and social outcomes both in the short and long-term. The impact of delay can be profound.

There are thousands of children currently sitting on these waiting lists with children waiting 18 months or more to see a paediatrician and over a year to see a speech pathologist and other critical development services. This is not a reflection on the hardworking specialists and staff working across these government services but recognition that the system is at crisis point.

As Shadow Minister for Early Childhood Education, I have been advocating for a significant increase in funding for a long time and I will continue to call on the Cook Labor Government to take immediate action and resource this critical child health service properly.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DONNA
FARAGHER JP MLC
MEMBER FOR EAST METROPOLITAN REGION
Shadow Minister for Community Services;
Early Childhood Education; Seniors & Ageing; Youth
Ground Floor, 108 Swan Street Guildford 6055
9379 0840 | faragher.eastmetro@mp.wa.gov.au
Authorised by D.Faragher, Ground Floor 108 Swan Street Guildford WA 6055

Application for artists is now open

If you are a local artisan who lives in the Shire of Mundaring and would like to be a part of the

Mundaring Hills Open Studios 2024
19-27 October

...or if you live outside of the Shire and are interested in being a guest artist then please get in touch.

For more info or to apply visit
mundaringhillsopenstudios.com

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Member for Kalamunda Electorate

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Railway Road, Kalamunda WA 6076

Mundaring Office:
Wednesday - Friday 9am to 12
By Appointment only
3/7160 Great Eastern Highway, Mundaring
(Next to Patch of Country Cafe)

9293 4747
kalamunda@mp.wa.gov.au
Matthew Hughes MLA

Community First

I thought it fitting that on the 9 February, the occasion of my 74th birthday, that I announced my decision not to contest for the seat of Kalamunda at the election in March 2025.

Apart from a brief stint in the early 1990s, when I held a term of government position in the Lawrence Labor government, my chosen career lay in education. In response from approaches to me by WA Labor I nominated for the Legislative Assembly late in 2016, at a time of life when many people are considering retirement. It had been my plan to retire from my position of principal at John Septimus Roe Anglican Community School at the end of 2017, a position I held for 21 years.

As it turned out, in 2017 the electorate of Kalamunda returned me as the first ever WA Labor member of the Legislative Assembly in the history of the seat. Many voters who had traditionally voted Liberal were prepared to support my election on a 52.5 percent of the two-party preferred vote. I now count many of my friends in that number. Support for my election was further increased in 2021 when the two-party preferred vote in my favour was just shy of 62 percent. I am humbled by the confidence given to me by my constituents, and have been committed to making sure that I have been accessible to our Hills communities, including opening a satellite office in Mundaring.

I am pleased with the substantial outcomes that the WA Labor Government has delivered to the electorate since 2017, under former Premier McGowan and Premier Hon Roger Cook MLA. The list is too long for this article. I will undertake to detail them in subsequent contributions to the Darlington Review in the coming months.

I also want to pay tribute to a group of people who would not be known generally to the wider public. This group comprises the members of the Zig Zag branch of the WA Labor Party. Over many years, well before I came on the scene, they presented, advocated for and helped frame State Labor Party policies. In an electorate that had never returned a Labor member they worked hard over decades on successive election campaigns to ensure WA Labor was an active player in the democratic processes to present Labor policies and values across the electorate. I am so pleased that eventually their hard work was rewarded. Branch members and supporters are the lifeblood of WA Labor. The commitment and work of grass root members and supporters of our political parties are indispensable to the health of our parliamentary democracy.

My thanks go to my experienced and highly competent electorate office team who many constituents have gotten to know in the service our office provides to the community. Nigel Dickinson, who is the team leader, and research officers Karen Beale and Brodie Park respond to scores of approaches for assistance every week. I am deeply indebted to them.

If I were younger, I would have sought re-election in 2025. Even so, I doubt that I would have served the 23 years that my predecessor Hon John Day contributed to representing the people of the district in the Stare Parliament as the Liberal member. Now, however, is the time to hand over to another.

I am no doubt that WA Labor will be careful to select a candidate with a proven and long-term commitment to our Hills communities. My job between now and March 2025 is to ensure the continuity of the work of the electorate office and to conclude those projects that remain on my desk.

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tania.lawrence.mp@aph.gov.au
Tania Lawrence MP

Authorised by Tania Lawrence, Australian Labor Party, U3, 28 Main Street, Ellenbrook WA 6069.

Classifieds

GARDENING, pruning, weeding, mulching, whipper snipping, gutters cleaned, general tidy up. **Phone Geoff 0409 088 936.**

60+ DANCE CLASS, MONDAYS 9.30am Darlington Hall, cost $15. All welcome, no experience needed. **Contact Lynne 0409 520 023.**

FOR SALE: Ladder 5.5 metres $200: **Pool Table** $200: **Pole – stainless steel** 14metres, ideal for TV/Radio mast $100: **Car Ramps** $30 pair: **Garden Shed** 2.4 x 2.4 x 1.7 high, dismantled $150: **Mattress & Base** King Size Single near new $60. **Phone: Geoff 0409 088 936**

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DARLINGTON REVIEW

Tania Lawrence | Member of Hasluck

While there is much to celebrate with technological advances and new ways of working, being increasingly contactable and accessible gives rise to new challenges.

Because the reality is, we are all finding it hard to disconnect from our devices.

We are all on, 7 days a week, and working well in excess of 7.6hrs a day thanks to that little computer in our pocket. We are contactable from the moment we rise in the morning, until our head hits the pillow.

The Albanese Government recognises the overwhelming majority of employers already have strong relationships with their staff, defined by effective communication, and a clear understanding of expectations.

In these cases, it is very unlikely the Right to Disconnect reforms will cause any change at all.

The reforms are squarely aimed at protecting tat worker who is receiving protracted, systemic, and unreasonable requests to consistently work outside of their agreed hours.

The provision of a protection from such circumstances should be uncontroversial.

Unfortunately, fringe and frivolous arguments have disproportionately influenced the discourse surrounding the Albanese Government's introduction of this right for workers to disconnect.

This has eclipsed the reform's potential benefits for both employers and employees.

Having spent more than a decade as a Public Servant, another decade with a top 5 ASX listed company, and more recently before entering politics, establishing my own small business, I understand the business drivers needed for success.

And central to these drivers is to exceed customer expectations, to be agile and innovative. Get this right, and profits and shareholder returns will be maximised. Underpinning success is a high performing, productive workforce.

I well understand the time, effort and money companies invest in staff development to create a culture where staff are dedicated to going above and beyond the minimum expected. And when staff do so, is it is when there is a mutually respectful relationship in that workplace.

In this context, the Right to Disconnect is not about eliminating the ability of employees to be available for their bosses or to be available to meet the demands and operational requirements of their job.

Rather, it is an opportunity for those workplaces, which do not presently have an Enterprise Agreement to provide clarity on the expectations of staff to be available outside of work hours in the absence of on-call rosters or other mechanisms.

By championing this right, businesses have the opportunity to not only enhance the well-being of their employees but also to secure a competitive advantage in the ever-evolving marketplace.

It's time to recognise that in granting the freedom to disconnect, we pave the way for a workforce that is not just productive but fulfilled.

Glen Forrest Bridge Club (GFBC)

Welcome to Glen Forrest Bridge Club

Maybe you have considered learning to play or to renew your interest in the game. Glen Forrest bridge club, is a friendly and supportive club that caters to beginners and experienced players.

For beginners, a very friendly and supportive session is held on Wednesday mornings 9.30 to 11.30. People can learn to play from scratch, refresh skills, or just play socially without the pressure of competition. No need to feel shy, everyone is made very welcome.

Regular sessions are held on Monday and Wednesday afternoons, learners/social session Wednesday morning.

The Bridge club is located at the Glen Forrest Sports Club in Mc Glew Road. Fees are very modest and include membership of the Sports Club, where you can play darts pool and bowls. After the Monday and Wednesday sessions refreshments are available from the bar if you wish to stay for a drink and a friendly discussion of games.

Telephone Ronnie 0419961 711 or Fred 0417 913 468 if you would like more information.

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Farewell Darlington! Perth Hills Pilates is excited to let you know that we have moved, just a few minutes away.

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We invite you to join us on this new adventure as we continue to evolve, always with your wellness in mind.

WWW.PERTHHILLSPILATES.COM.AU

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DARLINGTON

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20 Brook Road, Darlington

The dedication and commitment of Save Perth Hills' (SPH) amazing supporters, knows no bounds.

On February 2 when the temperature would hit 40 degrees, a committed crowd of community members boarded a bus to the City to hold a passive protest in Supreme Court Gardens.

The location was opposite the State Administrative Tribunal (SAT) where Satterley would declare on that day, they would not abandon their plan to urbanise North Stoneville with 3000 people, despite rejection by WA's top planning authority, the WA Planning Commission (WAPC) last December.

The site was also opposite St George's Cathedral - the Church headquarters of North Stoneville landowner, the Anglican Church.

Frustratingly, Satterley was given an extra 5 weeks' adjournment to get their matters in order – including 'typos, inconsistencies and discrepancies' in their WAPC report. Their lawyer identified Bushfire Evacuation and Traffic as the major sticking points that 'needed fixing'.

SAT noted the time the case is taking, given it was brought to SAT in 2020 and given almost 3 years of confidential (taxpayer funded) mediation, as well as the on-going burden to ratepayers and taxpayers who are funding State and Shire lawyers.

SPH attended the hearing and was offered opportunity to comment.

Deputy Chair Debra Bishop told the hearing that while the case had been before SAT for 4 years, Satterley had, in fact, had 8 years to 'fix' its plan given negotiations began with the Mundaring Shire in 2016.

Additionally, the landowner, the Anglican Diocese, had had an astonishing 33 years to come up with a more community-acceptable and safer plan, rather than a townsite that would cram more than 3000 people in an Extreme Bushfire Zone region, with limited evacuation options, and with an increasing challenging climate bringing more frequent and severe bushfires to our Hills.

March 8 is the next SAT hearing date.
SPH will be there.

We'll also be at the Rotary Twilight Markets in Mundaring on March 9. Come and have a chat with us to catch up on the latest, and be among the first to grab a new SPH sticker that will feature our soon-to-be-launched new campaign catch-phrase for this next stage to Save Perth Hills!

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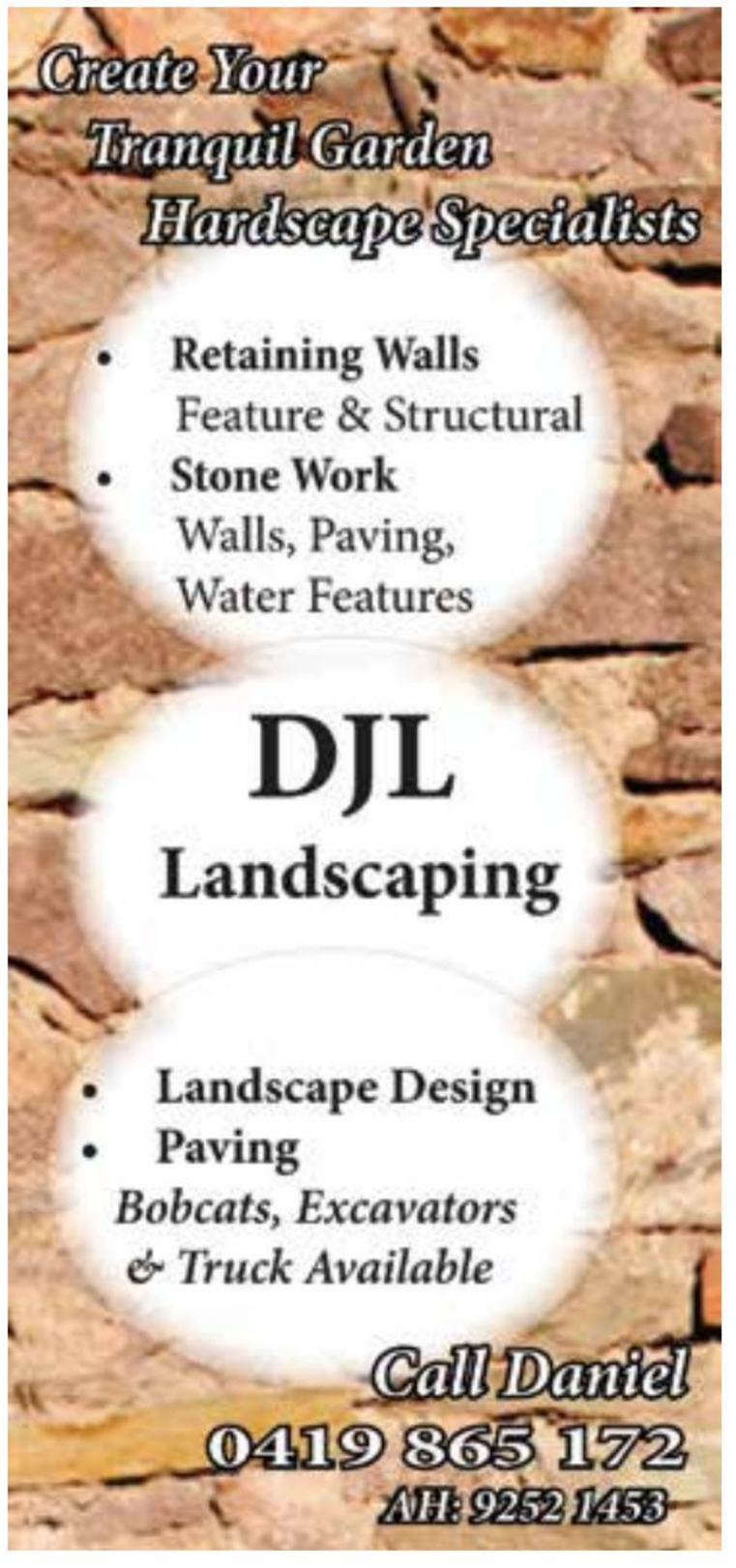

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Mundaring and Hills Historical Society will present a talk on CY O'CONNOR AND THE GOLDEN PIPELINE by Bill Cutler

We will do an exploration of the early life, work, and projects undertaken by engineer CY O'Connor, principally the impact of his great achievements following the discovery of new wealth (for some but not all) in the eastern goldfields, and the establishment of the significant towns of Coolgardie and Kalgoorlie, where great hardship affected the early prospectors.

During this period of WA's rapid growth O'Connor developed a special relationship with WA's first Premier John Forrest. However, there were also detractors who put enormous pressure on O'Connor both professionally and personally.

We will discuss and debunk some of the myths surrounding O'Connor, and the enduring legacies left behind by a brilliant but sometimes troubled man.

This is the story of Western Australia's first golden years of development, and the period when the state came of age in the 1890s and early 1900s.

Our Speaker, Bill Cutler, was born on the pipeline at No 7 Pumping Station, Gilgai, and lived his early life and schooling as a pipeline kid. His father worked his entire life on three of the O'Connor built steam pumping stations, including No 2 Pumping Station, firstly as a fireman, and later a greaser.

Bill is a 43 year career banker serving in Western Australia as well as overseas postings in Fiji, Hong Kong, Singapore and

London. He retired in 2002, and amongst other things became a volunteer tour guide with the National Trust, specifically looking after visitors to the Trust's steam powered No 1 Pumping Station at Mundaring Weir.

Bill is also interested in early Australian colonial history, being a direct bloodline descendant of two First Fleet convicts who arrived with Captain Arthur Phillip at Sydney Cove on January 26th 1788. He is currently Vice-President of the West Australian Chapter of the Fellowship of First Fleeters.

Saturday 16th March

2.45 pm

At Boya Community Centre, 135 Scott Street, Boya

Afternoon Tea supplied for a gold coin donation

Darlington Arts Festival

The Darlington Arts Festival Association Annual General Meeting will be held on Monday 18th March starting at 7.30pm in the Lesser Hall.

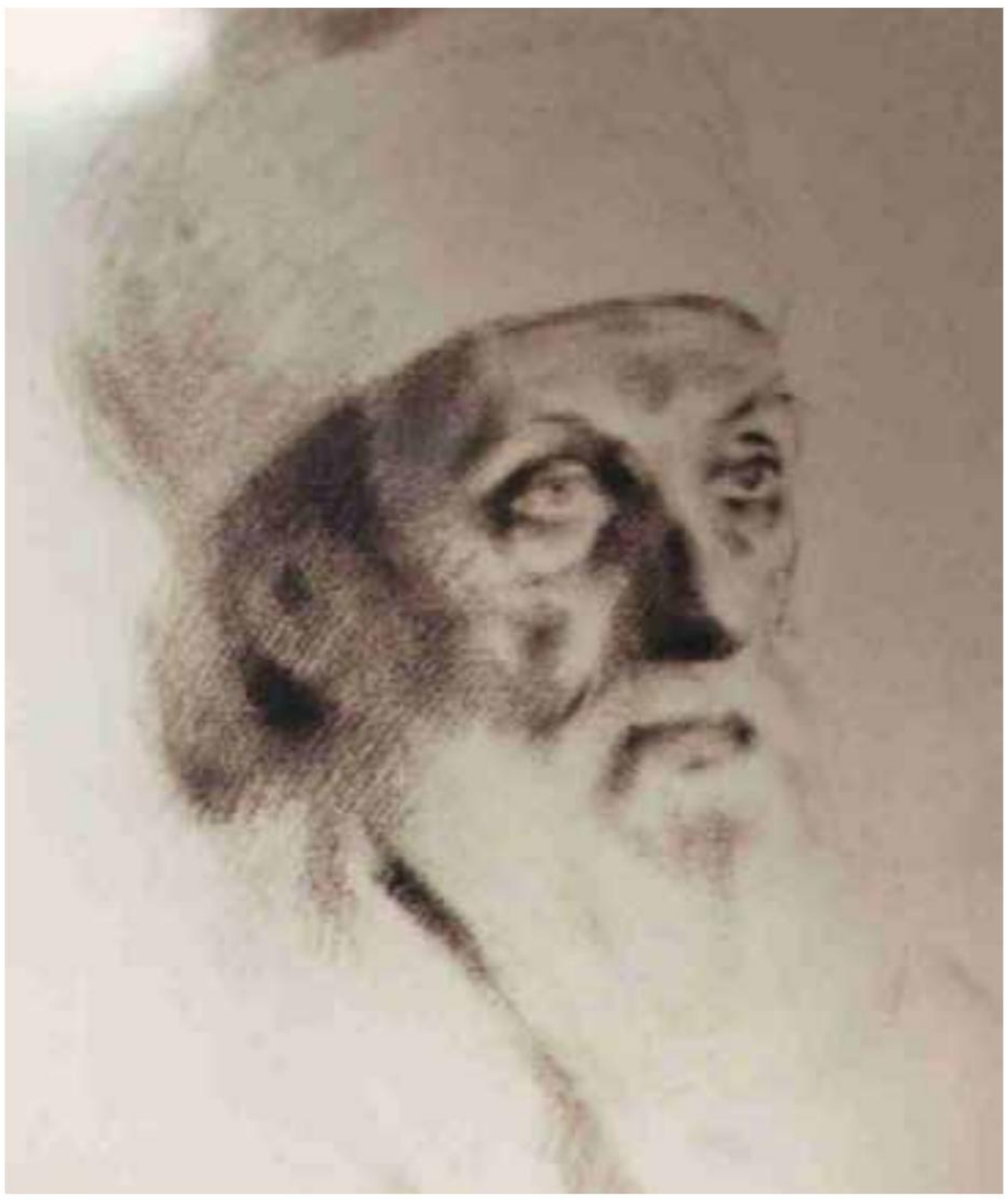
2023 turned out to be an excellent year both for the festival and for 'next gen' members taking on roles in the committee. The mix of talented people from different backgrounds balanced experience with new ideas and infused the committee with great energy.

However with some coordinators departing, we are looking for people to fill these roles. So this year's AGM is your chance to join us, work hard, have fun along the way and find immense job satisfaction.

New members are mentored in their chosen roles and have lots of support - no-one is thrown in at the deep end.

So come to the AGM, meet a great bunch of community minded people, become a member and keep our festival vibrant and viable.

Baha'i Community of Mundaring



We went out for dinner in Vic Park recently and managed to get a table at the perennially popular Lebanese restaurant The Prophet. You might have been there - the felafel and baba ghanouj are worth the drive! You might have also heard of the restaurant's namesake, the hugely influential book The Prophet by Khalil Gibran.

Even if you haven't read it, you've probably at least heard of it. The Prophet, Gibran's best-known work is arguably one of the most renowned books of poetry, only Shakespeare and Laozi are more popular, with Rumi following in fourth place. Composed of lyrical prose poetry the book's protagonist shares deep prophetic wisdom laden with spiritual authority on life's great themes, such as marriage, prayer and beauty.

Kahlil Gibran holds a special place for Baha'is. He met 'Abdu'l-Baha in New York in 1912. Gibran, then 29 years old and more than a decade away from the 1923 publication of The Prophet, wanted to sketch a portrait of 'Abdu'l-Baha, the successor of the Baha'i Faith, a rapidly-expanding new global religion. Gibran had previously drawn portraits of the sculptor Rodin, the poet Yeats, the psychiatrist/philosopher Carl Jung and the composer Debussy.

'Abdu'l-Baha, 68 years old at the time, had recently been released from forty years of exile, house arrest and prison after the collapse of the Ottoman Empire. A revered spiritual figure and a powerful, renowned advocate for unity and world peace, 'Abdu'l-Baha had come to America to meet the Baha'i community, travel throughout the nation on a speaking tour and proclaim his father Baha'u'llah's new Faith.

Gibran said, after his initial meetings with 'Abdu'l-Baha, "He is a very great man. He is complete. There are worlds in his soul…." He told how meeting 'Abdu'l-Baha had profoundly influenced his work, leaving an indelible impression, and wrote that he had 'seen the Unseen, and been filled.'

Gibran's mystical work The Prophet is suffused with the timeless wisdom and insight reminiscent of the Baha'i teachings. It's definitely worth seeking out a copy if you haven't read it, and if your soul is touched by the poetic wisdom within The Prophet, you have a huge wellspring of inspiration awaiting you in the Baha'i teachings — the writings of Baha'u'llah and 'Abdu'l-Baha, voluminous and filled with transcendental mystery and universal spiritual truth.

If you'd like to explore the Baha'i vision of unity and connection, we hold regular study circles at homes in Darlington, Glen Forrest, Mahogany Creek and Mundaring. These are welcoming spaces to study and have spiritual conversations with friends from diverse backgrounds. All are welcome. More details on our Facebook page and website.

Mundaring Baha'i Community mundaring@wa.bahai.org.au www.bahai.org.au

Katharine Susannah Prichard Writers' Centre

Coming up at the KSP Writers' Centre

Writing Workshop: So You Want to Write Speculative Fiction, Saturday 16 March 2024,1.00-4.00pm

Explore the boundless possibilities and power of speculative fiction to tell realistic stories in 'unrealistic' worlds. Whether you've always written speculative fiction or you're just trying it out for the first time, this workshop looks at the common strengths and pitfalls of the genre, and the similarities and differences between specific and other genres, to give writers frameworks to work within. This workshop, suitable for writers at any stage of their writing interested in exploring speculative fiction, is run by Jess Gately, a freelance editor specialising in the genre whose Masters thesis looked at the way editors approach fictional languages in sci-fi and fantasy. She has been a judge for the Aurealis Awards since 2019, sits on the board for Night Parrot Press and teaches Editing and Publishing at Curtin University. Tickets from $35.

2024 Spooky Stories Competition is open for submissions. Deadline: 13 March 2024 5pm AWST, Theme: Don't Look Up, Cost: $10 Adults, FREE youth

KSP WRITERS' CENTRE PRESENTS
SPOOKY STORY COMP
2024 COMPETITION THEME
- DON'T LOOK UP -
SUBMISSIONS CLOSE 13 MARCH 2024
SEE WEBSITE FOR MORE DETAILS

The KSP Writers' Centre is proud to present our annual spooky story competition, sponsored by Little Black Dress Productions. The judges will be looking for good quality original, unpublished writing with engaging characters and a compelling narrative including an excellent beginning, middle and end. Entries must be rated PG and should address the set theme Don't Look Up.

Results will be announced at an awards ceremony and book launch event in August and published on social media and the KSP website thereafter. Shortlisted entrants will be contacted prior to the awards ceremony with an invitation to attend and read an extract of their entry.

Limits: YOUTH 500 words max, one entry only (Australian residents); ADULT 1,200 words max, unlimited entries (WA residents only).

For more information on our residencies, competitions or other activities please visit the KSP website **kspwriterscentre.com** or phone the office on 08 9294 1872. KSP Writers' Centre is proudly sponsored by the Shire of Mundaring.

Forrest Darlings CWA

The Forrest Darlings branch of CWA is focused on crafts, catering and community. In 2023 we attended a number of events with fundraising stalls including Darlington Arts Festival and Mundaring Garden and Farmers Market. As a result of these fundraising efforts we have been able to make the following donations at the start of 2024:

Mundaring Adult Learning Centre $300

Eastern Hills Community Pantry $300

Cycling Without Age $300

Sir James Mitchell Emergency Assistance Fund $300

Sir James Mitchell Education Fund $300

CWA State Projects Fund $300

CWA Centenary Fund $300

CWA 100 Stories Fund $100

Thank you to everyone in our community who supported our stalls, by buying crafts, cakes and cookies.

Forrest Darlings is a friendly branch of the Country Womens Association which meets monthly at Darlington Pavilion. Thank you to the Shire of Mundaring who recently agreed to waive the hire fees for the Darlington Pavilion in recognition of the group's contribution to the local community.

Next meeting: Weds 20th March 7pm
For more information follow Forrest Darlings CWA on Facebook.

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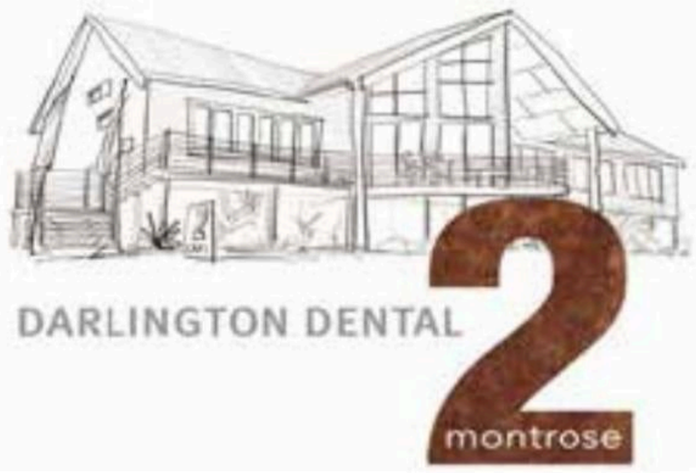

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February Planning Meeting

Refreshed from our holiday break, the group took a SWAT approach and delved into our strengths and weaknesses, opportunities, and threats. We decided our biggest threat was an aging group. Hence our need to attract some new members with the skills lacking in our otherwise talented group. Overall, we are optimistic and looking forward to another successful year which should see the completion of our heritage project now in the hands of the Shire.

Age Is Upon Us! We Need Your Skills!

Like all organisations we are slowly aging and in need of some fresh faces and skills to keep up with the times. Skills we would love to have in our group are in the **Publicity** area as Abi would like to drop some of her roles due to her increasing work-loads elsewhere. She is happy to upskill contenders with what is required such as posting regularly on Facebook, use of Mailchimp for the Newsletter and other mailouts, and producing the publicity sheets for our talks. If you think you have a little time and skill to donate to our group, we would love to hear from you. It isn't essential that you are on the Committee as it is a role where you only need to be a member or associate member.

The other area we would love some help with is doing some **oral histories**. If you enjoy learning about peoples past life, then that is really the only skill needed. We can give assistance to willing participants with topics to cover and the technology to record. Or you may know someone you think would make a great case study but don't have time to do it yourself, then let us know and we can add them to our list. Contact Val 92996868 or Lyn 92988604.

Guest Speaker Programme Resumes For 2024 "History Of The Helena Vale Racecourse" Wednesday 13 March @ 7.30pm Sharp Darlington Lesser Hall, Owen Road, Darlington

Established in 1898 on 160 acres of thick scrub, the Helena Vale Racecourse was funded by a shareholder syndicate of up to 20 people, mainly businessman from Midland, Guildford, and Perth.

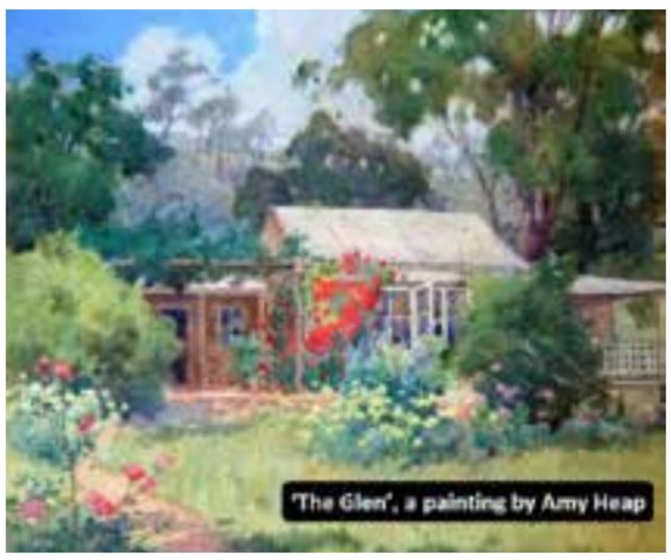
Consisting of stables, a mounting yard, grandstand, and a racing track the racecourse was a regular place of entertainment for both locals and those further afield. Come along and hear **Matthew Pavlinovich from Midland and Districts Historical Society** speak about the development of the racecourse, from its inception to the final race in 1969. Refreshments will be served after the talk. Gold coin donation appreciated at the door. Contact Val 9299 6868 for more information.

Helena Vale Racecourse courtesy State Library of WA

Our Website Is Full Of Fantastic Information!

Have you ever pondered how your street name came about?

You can now find out under the DISCOVER tab on our website navigation menu. Some street names come from some of the early settlers like Waylen, Amherst, Victor, Maslin, Mitchell and Mofflin. Others have their origin in some of the early house names like Leithdale, Ryecroft, Allestree, Glen and Dalry. Another naming system was by description - Hillview, Orange, View, Stone and Highview. Some Indigenous names were also used such as Beenong, Kuranda, Noonameena, Mandoon and Lumeah. Finally, there is a category of names after some of the local flora like Dryandra, Lobelia and Verbina. Scattered amongst these categories are two names from the WW1 honour board being Wheatcroft and Mayhew - check out why these have mistakes associated with them.



If you have wondered if the house you live in has cracked the century by 2024, this information has been added under DISCOVER on the DHG Website. In 2023 Terryhill and Taramere turned 100, and this year Victor Cottage and St Cuthberts (laying of its foundation Stone) will celebrate their 100 years. Look up the list to find out where these houses are, and other information, like who built them. You might find your house there!

Additional Information has been added to the HISTORY RESOURCES tab, under Community groups, with the history of the earlier **Darlington Drama Group that ran from 1942-1954** being added. Find out why the plays had dual names, and there are some humorous analysis of the plays by Sid Priestner. As well, some information has been added with photos on the Badminton Club that operated into the 1960's.

If you have read our last publication, Arts on the Edge, we have expanded on some of the lives of the **early Darlington artists**, namely Daisy Rossi, Amy Heap (see her painting above), Walter Meston and Loui Benham. We tracked down some of their artworks depicting scenes in Darlington and added information – visit HISTORY RESOURCES >Early Artists. Visit our website dhg.org.au to discover more!

Bric-A-Brac

Due to storage and handling issues, DHG will no longer collect books for fundraising but will continue collecting bric-a-brac which every year is a crowd favourite and a very good fundraiser for us. Contact Liz 0427 952 491 or Christine 0490 793 015 for contributions.

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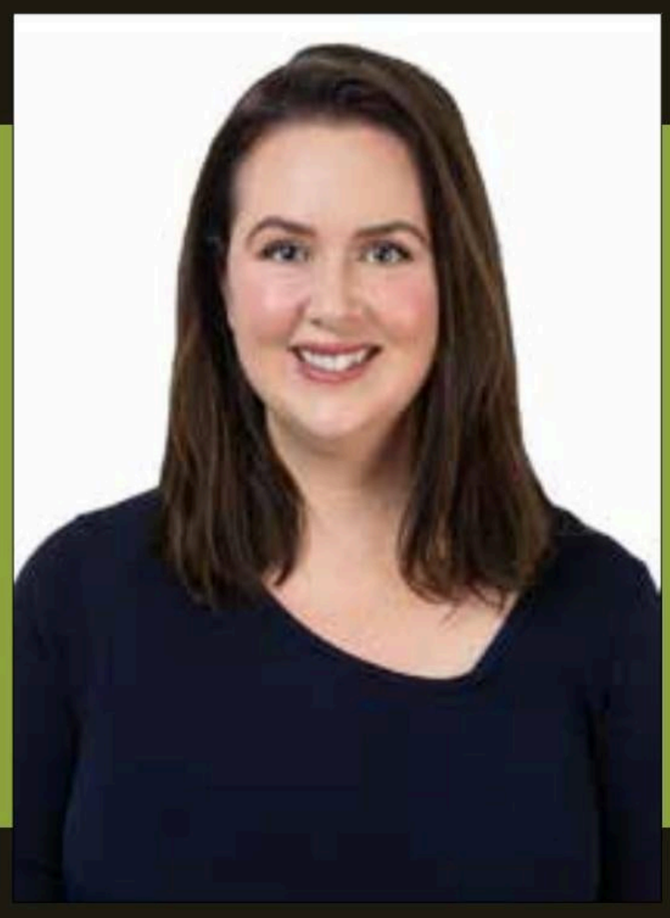

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hypothetical

Over my dead body ...

Alan and Jane met in their 40s and had children from previous relationships. Alan's two sons, Ben and Charlie didn't speak much with him after his divorce from their mother, but Jane's two daughters, Kerry and Lois were very close with her and welcomed Alan into the family, seeing him as a father figure they had not had since their own father's death five years earlier.

Alan had no money to his name, but Jane earned enough to pay for both of them, and they held their money in joint bank accounts and later bought a new house as joint tenants. 10 years later, Jane died unexpectedly and the family was devastated. One year afterwards, Alan died without a will, and Jane and Kerry were shocked to find out that the family home, together with the rest of the estate, would go to Alan's estranged children, Ben and Charlie, under section 14(1)(5) of the Administration Act 1903 (WA).

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Marloo Youth Benefit from Shire Grant

Darlington Theatre Player's mission is to "Foster and encourage interest in all aspects of the Theatre and Theatrical Arts".

As a youth focussed program, Marloo Youth Theatre's (MYTh) mission is to provide local youth (aged 12-18), with training, skills and processes relevant to theatrical endeavour by developing a sustainable youth theatre program which utilises the skills of members of the Darlington Theatre Players and local practi-tioners. This will provide local youth with an engaging, safe and support-ive learning environment where they will learn new skills and have oppor-tunity to develop prowess in all aspects of the theatrical world, whilst also providing the community with theatrical entertainment.

The Shire of Mundaring kindly donated the sum of $13, 655 towards Marloo Youth Theatre achieving its goals of fostering youth success in the per-forming arts. This grant was a part of the annual Youth Engagement Part-nership Fund round of funding and has contributed to our youth produc-tion of Newsies Junior. This financial support has assisted with a range of things, including new, up to date stage lighting equipment, contribu-tions to set construction, costuming and production shirts.

Newsies Junior is being used as a training ground not only for perform-ers, but also for the design, technical and backstage areas of theatri-cal endeavour. “MYTh Tech” (Marloo Youth Theatre – Technical) partici-pants have been working behind the scenes since October last year par-ticipating in regular workshops where they have learned the skills nec-essary to assist with set construction and scenic art, the ins and outs of stage lighting rigging, design and operation, sound design and oper-ation, props and costumes.

Newsies Junior will be manned completely by a youth backstage crew, as-sistant stage managers and lighting and sound operators. “MYTh Tech” is very proud of its participants aged 12-18 years of age where such pro-duction roles that require large responsibility are being undertaken by local youth.

We are very grateful to the Shire of Mundaring for their support of our “MYTh Tech” technical program and their support of our Youth Production Newsies Junior through their Youth Engagement Partnership Fund Program.

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EVENTS

Experiences of a Female Fighter Pilot – Flight Lieutenant Sue Freeman

Boya Community Centre -
Thursday 7 March, 6pm to 7.15pm

Flight Lieutenant Sue Freeman is a highly respected fighter pilot and flight instructor with a defence force career spanning 30 years. Sue was just 19 years old when she began flying jets in the RAF. After 25 years with the RAF, she joined 79 Squadron at RAAF Base Pearce as a flight instructor. Sue will tell her remarkable story of experiences flying, training, and being on the front line as a female fighter pilot. Bookings are essential at https://070324b.eventbrite.com.au

She Means Business with Aly Bannister,

Boya Community Centre, Monday 11 March,
10.30am to 11.30am

Join Aly for this exciting workshop aimed at first time female business owners and mumpreneurs. This workshop will cover:

- An overview of what you need to succeed regarding business development skills
- Where to access free help and guidance in those early stages
- Digital marketing ideas
- Goal setting and productivity planning

Practical ideas to build your business and keep it on track. Bookings are essential for this free event at https://11324b.eventbrite.com.au

LinkedIn for Small Business with Aly Bannister,

Boya Community Centre - Friday 15 March,
10.30am to 11.30am

Learn about how having an effective LinkedIn profile can help your small business. This workshop aims to:

- Provide beginners with a solid foundation on creating an effective LinkedIn profile
- Show how to start building a network and why it is important
- Demonstrate how LinkedIn helps small business owners connect with new opportunities
- How to showcase a unique professional story
- Provide insights into why LinkedIn is the #1 social networking site for professionals

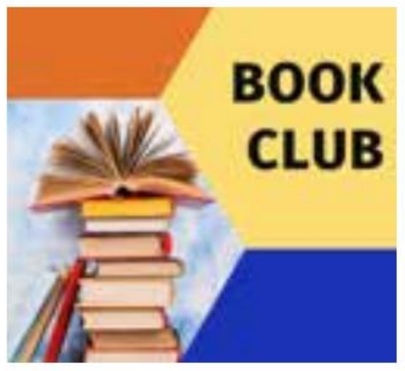
Identify ways of using LinkedIn to build a platform for success. Bookings are essential for this free event. Bookings essential at https://15324b.eventbrite.com.au

Decluttering: Live Better with Less

Boya Community Centre,
Monday 25 March, 9.30am to 11am.

Decluttering has received lots of media attention in recent years as a decluttered space is quick to clean and saves money too! An uncluttered home is a great goal, however, for most of us, it's a constant battle. Join sustainability educator Laura Monisse for an engaging session on the art of decluttering and learn practical strategies you can use to live a better life with less. A Switch Your Thinking event. Bookings essential via Eventbrite.

Join a Book Club at Boya Library



If you would like to join a library-facilitated book club, Boya Library has vacancies in two of our clubs. Choose from either a Wednesday morning or Wednesday evening session time. A small fee of $30 covers your book club membership for the year, and gives access to each month's book title and notes. The book clubs meet at Boya Library once a month with light refreshments provided. Call Boya Library on 9290 6755 or email gills@mundaring.wa.gov.au if you would like to register your interest or for more information.

Tech Help Volunteers Wanted for Mundaring Library

Are you confident in using technology and great with people? Mundaring Library is looking for volunteers to help people with using technology. Volunteers will assist community members on a one-to-one basis with using mobile devices and computers. Volunteers will assist for two hours once a week. If you have two hours available on a regular weekly basis contact Mundaring Library on 9290 6780.

LEGO Drive for Library LEGO Club

Do you have any spare LEGO bricks, pieces or accessories? Our library LEGO Club would love to have them! Pieces need to be official LEGO brand, clean, and in good condition. Drop them in to either Mundaring or Boya Libraries. Donations will be very much appreciated and put to very good use!

LEGO Club for Kids meets at Mundaring Lesser Hall on Thursdays from 3.30pm to 4.30pm. Lego Club is for children aged 6 to 12 years. It's free and no need to book.

Mundaring | Midland Junction Arts Centre

MUNDARING ARTS CENTRE

Mundaring Arts Centre | 7190 Great Eastern Hwy (corner Nichol Street)
9295 3991 | mundaringartscentre.com.au
Wednesday - Friday 10am - 5pm, Saturday and Sunday 11am - 3pm

24 Feb – 21 Apr 2024

DRAWN | Shire of Mundaring Invitational Acquisition exhibition showcases the distinctive language of drawing and features WA artists George Haynes, Merrick Belyea, Nic Compton, and Ric Spencer.

TREE OF LIFE | Artist Una Bell presents a series of pictographs, a form of picture-writing that has been used to record events since ancient Mesopotamia. Evolving her own unique pictographic language, Bell has created a catalogue of endemic flora and fauna through linocut and painting.

Coming up:

Meet the Artists:

DRAWN | Sunday 7 April 1 – 2:30 Gallery 1 at MAC.

Botanical Drawing with Una Bell | Sat 2 March | 12:15 – 2:15pm |

Found Object Drawing with Ric Spencer | Thu 14 Mar | 1.00pm - 4.00pm

Intro to Linocut with Una Bell | Sat 16 & 23 Mar | 12.15pm - 2.15pm

Please visit our website for workshop and public program details.
mundaringartscentre.com.au

Images: All photo's courtesy of the artist
Top Right: Una Bell, Tree of Life III, 2023, acrylic on canvas, 26x 20cm
Bottom Right: Ric Spencer, Suburban Foraging (coffee rock) 3, 2023, pencil on paper, 42 x 56 cm

Midland Junction Arts Centre

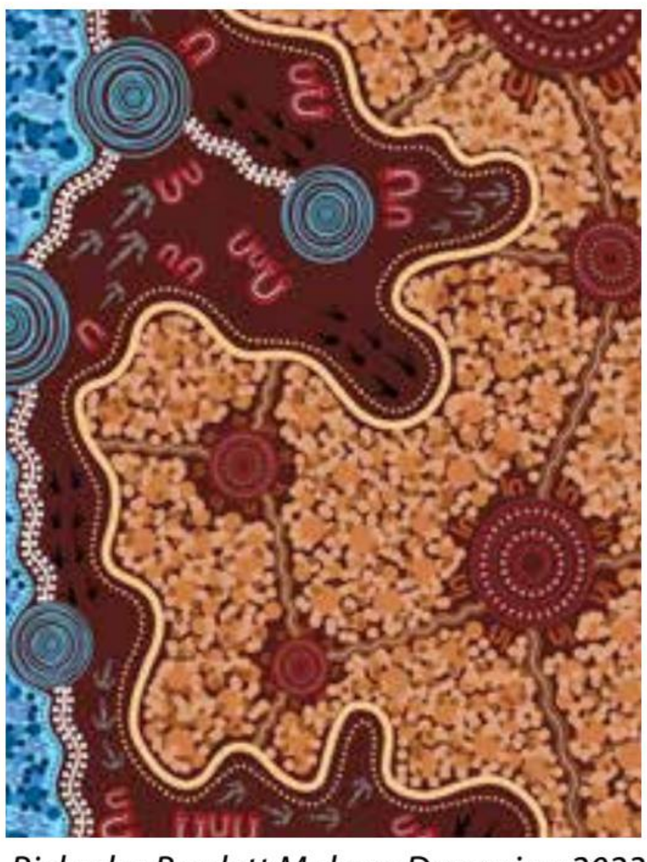
MANAGED BY MUNDARING ARTS CENTRE INC | SUPPORTED BY CITY OF SWAN

Midland Junction Arts Centre | 276 Great Eastern Hwy (corner Cale St)
9250 8062 | midlandjunctionartscentre.com.au
Wednesday - Friday 10am - 5pm, Saturday 11am - 3pm

CONNECTIONS TO HOME | On show until Sun 3 Mar

Connections to Home is a vibrant showcase celebrating the rich Aboriginal culture and local visual arts within the City of Swan. Featuring twelve new artworks, each meticulously crafted by First Nation artists from the region, they embody the artist's connection to their home, their living culture and connection to the Weeip region. These works have been commissioned for the City of Swan's Art Collection and 2024 Community Calendar.

Throughout 2024 Midland Junction Arts Centre (MJAC) is undergoing heritage works to revitalise its beautiful historic spaces. Until March, the front reception and Galleries are not accessible as new flooring is installed, but while the front door may be temporarily closed, MJAC staff are onsite to welcome you.



Rickesha Burdett Makuru Dreaming 2023 digital painting 67x92cm.

Coming up:

16 March – 5 May

RE.COLLECTION | Curated by Samara King, this is a celebration of the endurance of Aboriginal art and culture, and connection to Country in Western Australia. Through archival photographs and commissioned artworks, Re.Collection demonstrates Aboriginal presence across history and disrupts colonial narratives. Featuring artists Katie West, Dianne Jones and Jarnda Councillor-Barns.

Life Drawing Drop-in Sessions | Every Fortnight Thu 29 Feb, 14 Mar, 28 Mar, 18 Apr, 2 May, 16 Mar, 30 May, 13 Jun | 10.00am - 1.00pm

Still Life Drawing Drop in Sessions | Every Fortnight Thu 7 Mar, 21 Mar, 25 Apr, 9 May, 23 May, 6 June, 20 Jun10.00am - 1.00pm

Stitched and Bound Artist in Residence Veranda Studio | The Veranda Studio turns into a hub of textile joy when ten of the stitched and bound artists open their arts practice to visitors.

Please visit our website for a full list of creative workshops and public program details.
midlandjunctionartscentre.com.au

We've had a great start to the year with lots of our members at our opening night. We all enjoyed Pizza, nibbles, drinks and a catch up.

The committee have all met and have planned out lots of events for this coming year.

Some of the events discussed with dates below are:

Bowls at the Glen Forrest sporting club. We can all meet there. It is $5 per head to the Sporting club. We will know closer to the date as to meals.

A bocci and dart night to be held at the club grounds.

Mother's day special. This is where the men cook the dinner and treat the women to a night off . Let's hope they do the dishes at well.

Soup night and a winter solstice. We will advise when each one is coming, and will be working towards making them great nights.

Please feel free to add any ideas you have.

Please ring if you are wanting a Membership forms to join the club. It's a great place to get to know people and make new friends.

For existing members please remember fees are due now, so please pay to the account below with your surname in the reference area.

Looking forward to seeing you all on our Friday nights.

Fees to join are $20 per person or $40 for two or family. Payee The Darlington Club Inc. BSB 633 000, Account 124527748. Reference Surname and Subs.

Sue Bennetts, Club Secretary
0407920930

Coming Events:

The Club opens at 6.30pm every second Friday at Darlington Lesser Hall. BYO drinks and nibbles.

February 16th	Sundowner
February 9th	Closed
March 1st	Bowls at Glen Forrest ($5 per head)
March 8th	Closed
March 15th	Bocci, Darts and Sundowner
March 22nd	Closed
March 29th	Good Friday
April 5th-19th	School holidays
April 26th	Sundowner

Contact Sue on 0439 273 213 or email susanlavell10@gmail.com
or Sue Bennetts, Secretary on 0407 920 930 email garrysue24@iinet.net.au

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HOSCA

Wandju (Welcome) to the fabulous world of HOSCA, where the adventures never stop. We're thrilled to kick off our first entry in the Darlington Review, your front-row seat to the magic that happens at our not-for-profit Outside School Care Association in Glen Rd.

When the Darlington kindy moved onto the school site in 2010, this shire owned building whispered, "HOSCA, you belong here!" and we have happily made it our own since then. We also have a second service at Sacred Heart School in Mundaring, both offering Before and After School Care, Vacation Care, and even care on those mysterious School Development Days.

Now, let's talk community vibes! We're like the cool kids in town, hanging out with the Darlington Community Garden (DCG). We're always up for a bit of community project action, and guess what? Thanks to the amazing Amelia, we're best buds with Second Bite. Most days, you can snag some bakery goodies, fresh fruits, veggies, or even treat your pet to some VIP dining thanks to the Animal Rescue Co-operative.

Nature is our middle name, and our Nature Nurturers program is the secret sauce to connecting our little ones with the world around them. Imagine nature play, gardening, exploration, and artsy adventures – it's like a wild party where the Quendas, bobtails, magpies, kangaroos, and Carnaby's are the VIP guests.

Our HOSCA kids are like little nature scientists, documenting their adventures in personalised books filled with photos, stories, and a habit tracker. Become a Nature Nurturer, and voila – you get a framed certificate to flaunt your nature-loving prowess!

As we weather this scorching summer, our gardens are warriors facing the heat.

Fiona, Cale, and our mini garden warriors are on a mission, adding nutrients to our veggie beds and prepping them for the next crop bonanza. If you're a fan of fiery excitement, our young chefs (with gloves on, of course) have whipped up a hot chili sauce. Brace yourself, it's not for the faint-hearted, but if you dare, let us know, and we'll spice up your life!

Darlington Dibbler Girl Guides

Inspiring girls discover the best in themselves and make positive contributions to their community.

We welcome four new families to Darlington Dibbler Girl Guides, I'm sure your girls will be looking forward to the fun, adventures and friendships made at Guides.

The guides kicked off 2024 with plenty of planning for this term. We warmly welcomed our new families with some icebreaker games. It's lovely to see the guides working together as a team whilst having fun.

Thanks to a community grant from the Shire of Mundaring, we have been able to begin sewing polar fleece pouches for Blue Gum Wildlife Rehabilitation. The girls measured out pouch patterns to cut out three different sized pouches. The guides will be working hard on these so that they can be presented this month.

We have a jam packed schedule for Term 1 so come down and have a try.

We welcome new girls aged from 7-12 years. We meet at Kathleen Skipsey Hall – on Glen Road, Darlington on Tuesdays from 6pm to 7.30pm during the school term. If you have any queries regarding Darlington Dibbler Girl Guides please contact Karen on 0403233907 or enquire at Girl Guides WA.

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Embark on a Summer of Entertainment: A Trio of Unforgettable Community Events

Get ready for a sizzling Summer of Entertainment as the Shire of Mundaring comes alive with a series of vibrant, free family-friendly events, promising a season to remember.

Community members can dive into the series with Aquafest at Bilgoman Aquatic Centre on Friday 8 March from 6pm to 8pm.

The outdoor pool festival promises an evening of aquatic fun featuring a live DJ, real-life mermaids, inflatables and amusement ride, along with a free sausage sizzle.

Shire President Paige McNeil said from an outdoor pool festival to soulful tunes and a youth festival, the 2024 Summer of Entertainment series has something for everyone.

"The Shire is proud to host the Summer of Entertainment series once again,"

"These events are a much loved feature on our summer events calendar where community, culture, and celebration come together."

A fortnight later, Sculpture Park will come alive with the sound of music when Spirit of Alba headline the Blues and Folk live concert, on Saturday 23 March from 5.30pm to 7pm.

Presented by the Mundaring Folk and Blues Club in the tradition of Twilight Tunes, Spirit of Alba are back by popular demand.

Shire President McNeil said concert-goers are encouraged to bring their own picnic and enjoy the soulful melodies under the open sky.

"It's an evening that harmonises community spirit with the best of blues and folk music," she said.

The Summer of Entertainment series will reach its peak when Harry Riseborough Oval transforms into a vibrant hub of energy at Youth Fest on Friday 12 April from 12pm to 3pm.

Celebrating Youth Week WA, young people aged 12 to 17 can enjoy a Live DJ, skate clinic, Laser Skirmish, Gaming Trailer, Virtual Reality, Bungee Trampolines, Pedal Kart Racing, Art and Craft, a free BBQ and more.

"Youth Fest is a testament to Council's commitment to providing a positive space for our younger generation, fostering connections and creating memories," added President McNeil.

All events are drug, smoke and alcohol free and are proudly supported by the Shire of Mundaring and Lotterywest.

Shire of MUNDARING

lotterywest supported

What's on at the Hub of the Hills for over 55's in March

Estate Planning Workshop | 20 March | 9.30am | FREE
Information on five simple things you can do to prepare your estate, including inheritance, superannuation and life insurance. Morning tea provided.

Book Cafe | 19 March | 9.30am to 11am | $2 Morning Tea
Guest speaker Christine Bazen from Kanyana Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre. Purchase good quality pre-loved books - all money raised from book sales, raffle & morning tea goes to Kanyana.

Weekly Coffee Morning | every Tuesday | 9.30am
Come and enjoy catching up with friends or meeting new friends. Free tea and coffee, home made morning tea for only $2. All welcome.

Seniors Drop in | every Wednesday | 9.30am to 11am
Have a chat, read the paper, play board games or complete puzzles. Tea and coffee available. Free to attend.

APRIL EVENT

Summer Delight
Tuesday 9 April
11am - 11.45am

Enjoy either quiche or sausage rolls with salad. Gold coin donation. All welcome.

The Hub of the Hills, 8 Craig Street, Mundaring
9290 6683 cso4@mundaring.wa.gov.au | Officer present on:
Tuesday 8.30am to 11.30am | Wednesday 9am to 12pm | Thursday 10am to 2pm

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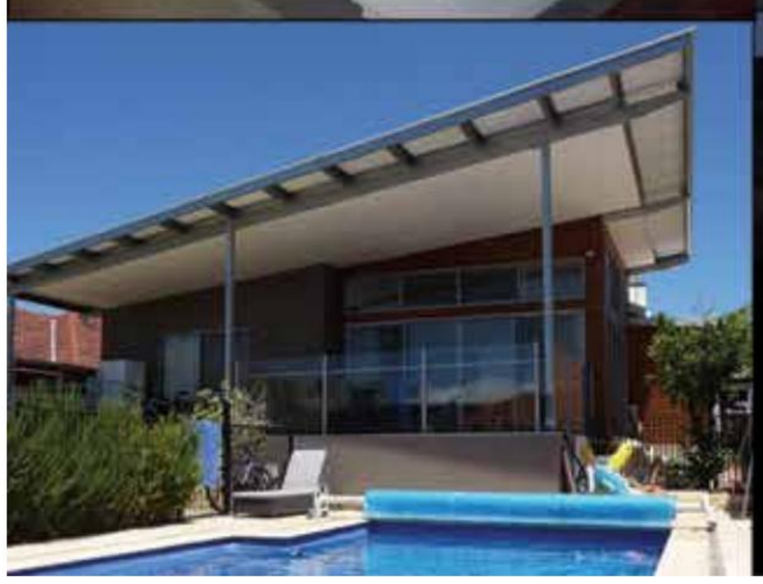

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Founders Day

In February we celebrated Founders Day, which is the birthday of Lord Robert Baden-Powell, Scouts founder. It's an opportunity to annually acknowledge the legacy of the worldwide movement he started. Worldwide there are now over 57 million Scouts/volunteers through 174 national Scout Organisations.

Scout Leader Oso

Youth awardees

It's also when we acknowledge significant efforts and important awards achieved by both our youth and leaders in the past year, and invest new leaders.

It's been a busy start to the term, and we've been up to the challenge of finding ways to try and stay cool, between water games, swimming at Bilgoman pool and water activities on the river.

Darlington Scouts are open to boys and girls, comprising 4 sections:

Joey Scouts (age 5-8) – Mon

Cub Scouts (age 8-11) – Wed

Scouts (age 11-14) – Thurs

Venturer Scouts (Age 14-18) – Fri

The sections usually meet at the Kathleen Skipsey Hall on Glen Road, Darlington, in a lovely bush setting on the creek line, with a fire pit and ample opportunity for getting amongst nature.

The Scouts meet weekly during school terms, and there are often extended weekend and school holidays camps, hikes and other activities on offer. If you have a child that may be interested in coming along, you can have a trial few visits before making a commitment. We do ask parents to take turns in helping with activities, and this may be at their weekly session, or it may be helping with a camp or other weekend activity.

You are welcome to come along for a couple of weeks before making a commitment to join. For information contact membership@darlingtonscouts.com, or www.darlingtonscouts.com, or the Darlington Scout Group Facebook page.

Darlington Venturers also have their own Instagram page, so if you are over 14, and interested if what they do, please look them up: @darlingtonventurers

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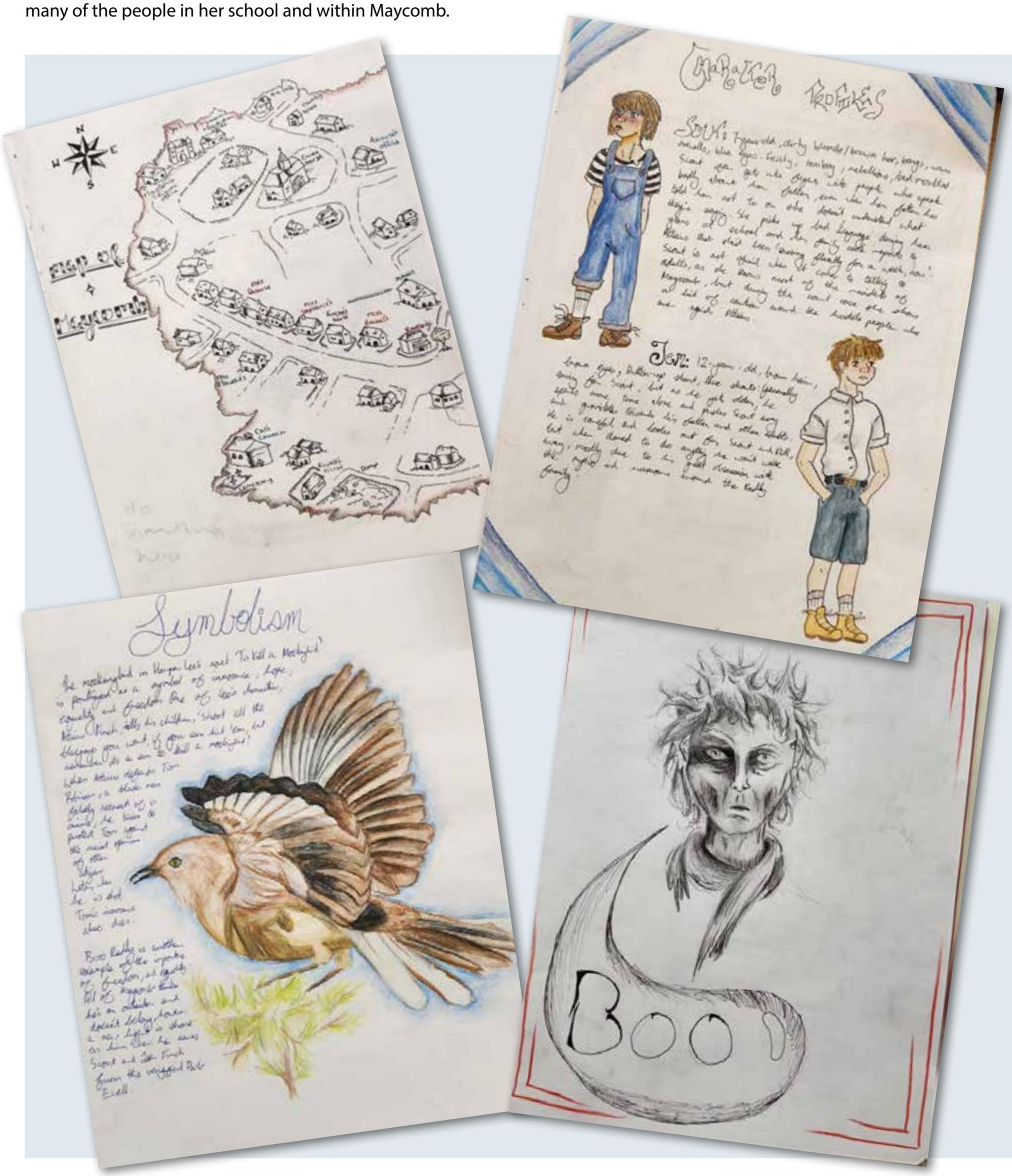
Parkerville Steiner College

Class 9 began the year with a deep dive into the Great Depression and Civil Rights Movement of 1930s America. 'To Kill a Mockingbird' is an iconic novel set during the tumultuous times of racial inequality, segregation, and burgeoning social change.

The beauty and power of this story is in the way Scout sees the world as a six- to eight-year-old, and how she tries to understand and come to terms with the rampant racism and intolerance of many of the people in her school and within Maycomb.

The Class 9's have had many great discussions over the course of this Main Lesson around the morality of the case, the verdict of the jury, the narrow mindedness of the Maycomb folks, and the segregation of both the African American community as well as those who support those people marginalised by society. While not always an easy read, 'To Kill a Mockingbird' is a great text for this age group, as they begin to grapple with the injustices and inconsistencies of our world.



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Membership allows subscribers to connect with the community
(full details are on the inside front cover of the magazine).

If you would like to advertise in the magazine,
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The Darlington Review is run by volunteers and is delivered free to all local households.
Its aim is to build a strong, engaged and cohesive community.

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business@darlingtonreview.com.au

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HELENA COLLEGE

START YOUR JOURNEY.

From their first excited (and perhaps a little hesitant) steps into kindergarten through to the confident strides of a Year 12 as they cross the stage at their graduation, a child's journey through school is marked by growth, discovery, and many opportunities to learn – and not all of that is done in the classroom! Each year brings new challenges, friendships, and lessons, shaping not just their academic knowledge but also their character and resilience.

This year, Helena College welcomed more than 100 new students across both our campuses, from Kindergarten onwards. We are looking forward to helping them to grow in confidence as they navigate a new school, making new friends and begin exploring the new academic challenges.

For our youngest students, it is an exciting transition, with the staggered start to the year making it that much easier to settle in the new routine of going to 'big school'. Initially attending for half days and half the week, our Kindy kids have had a gentle introduction to the Early Learning Centre.

Our biggest intake of new students was in our Year 6 cohort. An extended orientation program in the first week of school helped ease them into life in the dedicated Year 6 precinct. It's a guided step up, with a focus on giving them the confidence and skills to thrive in a new environment.

While others step into life at Helena, our Year 12s are preparing to step out into the world. Prior to the start of term, Year 12s attended a three-day retreat covering wellbeing activities, study skills, university visits and more, setting them up with a positive framework for what will be a challenging year.

We know that choosing a school is one of the most significant decisions a parent or carer can make for their child. At Helena College, we are big enough to offer a wide range of opportunities for all children and yet, with less than 800 students from Kindergarten to Year 12, we are still small enough for every child to be seen and heard.

The best way to get to know us is to tour our College on a normal school day. You'll see classes in action and hear from students and staff about what makes Helena a special place to learn and grow. To book your tour, please scan the QR code alongside. Limited enrolment opportunities are available in selected year groups. For more information, please email enrolments@helena.wa.edu.au.

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Treetops' Growth and Development

Treetops has had a very positive start to 2024, welcoming many new faces. Having experienced significant growth (specifically in Secondary), we now have 174 students across the school. The prior record for enrolments was 156 students which was achieved about ten years ago.

Over the past three years we have worked to develop our facilities to support this growth, and this has been most notable in enhancing our Music room, Science Lab and now the Design and Technology/Visual Arts rooms. This has been a mammoth task, and we would like to acknowledge all the staff who have gone over and above to make it work. It is their tireless devotion that has enabled each of these 'holiday' jobs to be completed in time for school to begin.

The above before and after photos show part of the conversion of the old Playgroup space (top picture) into the new Art Room (bottom picture). This process has involved completely stripping the space and installing new flooring, cupboards, furniture, and appliances. With the weather and power outage challenges Darlington experienced over the holidays, it is somewhat of a miracle this space was transformed before the commencement of Term 1.

Our Sugar Gums Playgroup is now hosted at
Darlington Family Playgroup
(located on Lionel Road, Darlington) and is held on
Tuesdays and Wednesdays.
Enrolment enquiries can be directed to
office@treetops.wa.edu.au

The new Art Room has become a multimodal educational area where students can engage in physical and digital artistic expression (inside and outside). Students are making pottery with the newly installed wheels and kiln as well as developing their cooking and café related skills with the new coffee machine and kitchen area.

This new development adds to Treetops' already very flexible approach in catering for our students and giving them the very best foundation for post-school life.

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St Cuthbert's Anglican Church | cnr Darlington and Hillsden Roads, Darlington

Shrove Tuesday was a great reason for parishioners of all ages to share a meal, enjoy the informal company of friends and prepare for the season of Lent. When the last pancake had disappeared people followed Rev'd Julie into the church where there was a short liturgy which included burning the palm crosses from Easter 2023. The palm ashes were used in the service of Imposition of Ashes the following day - Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent.

EASTER SERVICES 24TH - 31ST MARCH

Palm Sunday	9:00am - Eucharist and Procession
Monday	7:30pm - Said Eucharist
Tuesday	7:30pm - Said Eucharist
Wednesday	7:30pm - Said Eucharist
Maundy Thursday	7:30pm - Eucharist & Foot Washing
Good Friday	9:00am - Liturgy of the Cross
The Easter Vigil	7:00pm - Sung Eucharist & Supper
Easter Day	9:00am - Sung Eucharist

Welcome to HOLY WEEK AT St Cuthbert's

SERVICES AT ST CUTHBERT'S

WEEKDAY EUCHARIST FRIDAY @ 2PM

The weekly Eucharist on Fridays at 2pm continues to attract a small but faithful congregation. We would love to welcome others to take a half hour out of their day in a relaxed service with a friendly cuppa to follow.

SUNDAY 9AM SUNG EUCHARIST

GODLY PLAY 9AM (EVERY SUNDAY)

WORSHIP IN THE STYLE OF TAIZE
ON THE FIRST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH
SUNDAY 3 MARCH @ 6.30PM

Enjoy chant, meditation and scripture in a candlelit church.
Join us again on 7 April 2024

Rector: The Rev'd Julie Baker
T: 0459 471 894
E: rector@hillsanglicans.com

Parish Office: 6292 0074
Email: info@hillsanglicans.com
Mail: PO Box 77 Darlington, WA 6070
Services: 9am Sunday and 2pm Friday

Find us on Facebook at Hills Anglicans
Website: www.hillsanglicans.com

THE ST CUTHBERT'S PARISH CENTRE

The facilities at St Cuthbert's are available for community use. The Parish Centre provides space for a wide range of meetings, celebrations and activities.The standard fee is $28 per hour but rates for non-profit groups can be discounted. There is a small kitchen as well as tables and chairs for up to 40 people. Apply via our website at www.hillsanglicans.com/facilities

MAINLY MUSIC @ 9.30AM ON TUESDAYS IN THE PARISH CENTRE.

Another term of singing, prancing, playing and morning tea has just begun. A small team of parishioners have offered this gift to mothers, fathers, carers, grandparents and pre-schoolers of all ages for at least 10 years - we've actually lost count! It's a very joyful occasion and an experience we love to share. Do join us soon.

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Darlington Community Garden (DCG)

The Darlington Community Garden (DCG), is resting with minimal production happening due to the extreme heat and dry weather. Bunuru, the second summer and the hottest season of the Noongar six seasons, is well and truly here! The long hot dry days and nights are indicative of Bunuru, so we will do well to keep ourselves and our gardens cool and protected from the ex-treme heat this season brings. It really is the time for the garden to rest and to receive nurtur-ing from its human partner, the gardener.

While we were enjoying the cooling winds of Birak in January, DCG, held its Community Open Day on the 24th of January where the unveiling of the arbor mosaics took place. There were crafts and activities for children and morning tea for all. It was such a successful day and a historical one for DCG when our elder and the artistic director of the mosaic art work, Sally Her-zfield, cut the ribbon and officially unveiled the beautiful mosaic tiles living beneath the pro-tection of out grand arbour. Sally gifted so much of her time to work with the children from Darlington Primary, Helena College, Treetops Montessori and HOSCA, and she also assisted families on a Saturday morning in creating these works of art. Thank you Sally for your constant commitment to community, especially to the children of our community, and to the DCG.

So, the next time you are walking your dog through the garden, I invite you to stop and have a good look at the mosaic tiles, they really are lovely and so much love and commitment has gone into their creation. The DCG management committee and members are deeply grateful to the children, families and anyone who gave their time and creativity to bring this project to fruition; well done! DCG thanks the Community Bank Mundaring and the Shire of Mundaring for funding the mosaic art project, and to Midland Brick for the pavers. Your support fuelled the creativity of so many and brought community, art and beauty to the community garden. We look forward to partnering with you in future projects. Where would we be without our volun-teers? Thank you everyone for your participation in bring the event together and making it so successful and so much fun!

Even in such extreme weather, our beautiful garden keeps working hard to stay healthy and pro-vide us with food. At our last produce and plant swap, we shared pumpkins, greens and herbs from the garden while others brought mangos and limes and preserves to swap.

Perhaps our garden continues to give whatever it can as a gesture of thanks for the constant care the community gardeners give to the garden. We are mindful that the garden is experienc-ing some degree of stress during the extreme heat of Bunuru, so we don't expose it to added stress by pruning, grafting or doing anything that injures the body of the plant. At the garden we feed the soil and the plants once a week, during the coolest part of the day. Sometimes, if trees look exhausted from the heat, they will get an extra drench of cooling water. It is heartening to have a community member contact us while they are on a walk to inform us of a dry looking tree or seedlings that are looking rather sad. We do our best to attend to the destress plants as fast as we can. DCG appreciates and encourages connection between the garden and members of the Darlington community. The garden belongs to all of us!

Our garden has been captured for posterity in the watercolour painting of well-known Darlington artist, Jimmy March. He has gifted the DCG with his painting to be used for fundraising for the garden. Greatly appreciated, Jimmy.

Until next month, keep yourself and your garden cool and safe from the heat. If you would like to know how DCG feeds the garden then come join us on a Monday at 5pm when we feed and care for the garden.

See you in the garden!

SAT 9am or MON 5pm GARDEN BUSY BEES

SUNDAY 10th MARCH
(2nd Sunday of month)

From 5pm PLANT & PRODUCE SWAP - Bring produce, seeds, cuttings, plants, herbs, jams, etc & plate of food & drink to share.

From 6pm - DRUMMING CIRCLE & Yarning. Drums provided.

NEW MEMBERS

www.darlingtoncommunitygarden.org.au/join-us-1

Keep in touch and have your say on our DCG FACEBOOK page
www.facebook.com/groups/218148335647263

JOIN US

FACEBOOK

Friends of Darlington Station Reserve (FODS)

May You Live in Interesting Times!

Just like all gardeners out there, we FODS are struggling to accept the consequences of this summer's repeat heatwaves. The Darlington Station Reserve is looking sad and dry and we are losing plants that have been growing there happily for some years. There is also very heavy leaf fall and loss of small limbs from , particularly Eastern States, Eucalypts. I wonder what the rest of summer will bring and whether this pattern will repeat itself in coming summers.

On a more positive note, we are all watching the nesting boxes for signs of activity. Fingers crossed for new feathered residents to the Station Reserve. Also we will have to plan for the end of summer and decide what and where to plant once the season breaks. Shall we be able to chose species from drier areas further east of the Perth Hills that might be more drought tolerant? If any of you who like to get your hands into the dirt have any success stories with planting in your own patch, we would love to hear from you. Also on another more positive note, a friend of mine in the native plant growing business (Muchea Plant Farm) tells me that her young plants, the ones we will be buying in autumn for our gardens and the reserve, are growing really well this weather. Something to look forward to.

Easter is early this year so it isn't long till we will be preparing to start our fortnightly Sunday morning work sessions on the reserve. Come and join us or stop and say hello if you are walking through on Sunday morning.

Any queries contact Jane on 0477 987 048

Diane

Beautiful and endangered Banksia Verticillata (Granite Banksia). *A recent visit to Albany took me to Stony Hill (Torndirrup National Park) where this rare Banksia was largely burnt out not long ago but just look! That's resilience.*

Photo 2- Zamia Palm. *This one is in my garden and this is its response to this hot weather; 4 new huge fronds. Brilliant!*

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